EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

***Earth First!* Journal is published eight times a year.**
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POB 5871 * TUCSON, ARIZONA 85703 * (602)622-1371

Around the Campfire

One of the difficult tasks Earth First! took on in the beginning was to operate under a different organizational style — that of a tribe, not a formal corporate-type *organization*. The difficulty with this is that nearly everyone — including many of us — is so used to the hierarchical type of social structure, that we consider Earth First! a monolithic organization instead of a movement with many diverse and autonomous parts.

Two recent examples involving "monkeywrenching" illustrate this problem. Last summer someone spiked some trees, slashed some tires, and hung a banner proclaiming "Earth First!" at a timber sale on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. It was dumb for two reasons: first, the sale was being done by a small, local logger and wasn't particularly bad; second, the EF! sign put Montana Earth First! on the hot seat and has caused great troubles for them in all of their activities since, including attracting smaller crowds than expected to the Montana Wild West Exposition this winter.

The other example involves the massive media exposure the Earth First! movement has been receiving the last nine months — most of it concentrating on the issue of monkeywrenching, and reporting that Earth First! engages in it.

The facts are simple — but obviously too complex for our corporate-organizationally minded society to grasp. Local Earth First! groups do not engage in nor advocate monkeywrenching. Some EF! spokespersons in Oregon and Montana have even denounced the activity. "Earth First!" the newspaper — *which is an independent entity within the EF! movement and not the official newsletter of the Earth First! movement nor of any EF! local group* — does carry a regular column "Dear Ned Ludd" which is a forum for the discussion of monkeywrenching practices. The "Earth First!" newspaper also published a book which I edited last year about monkeywrenching — *ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*. In various interviews I have been questioned about monkeywrenching and I have responded as an advocate of the concept of monkeywrenching but trying to make it clear that I am not speaking for the Earth First! movement on that subject.

I'm not sure what the solution is. Neither myself nor this newspaper plans to give up the discussion of monkeywrenching. The second edition of *ECODEFENSE* is being worked on now. But local EF! groups and individual EF!ers need to be able to disassociate themselves from monkeywrenching. Suggestions? Is it a problem of name? Should this newspaper and the local groups have different names (not all be called "Earth First!") in order to emphasize the autonomy? "A rose by any other name . . . ."

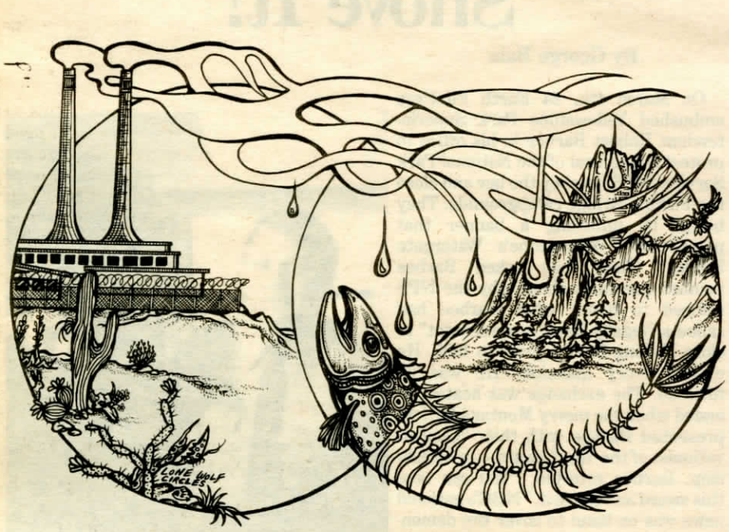
One problem which we don't have at this newspaper is trying to find good material to print. We are swamped with news, essays, reviews, features, etc. In no way do we wish to discourage this outpouring, but we are going to have to better manage the amount of material being considered for publication. In the future, we encourage news items to be shorter and will condense individual items so we can continue to cover all the news in the Earth First! universe. We will continue to present the provocative, original essays and in-depth features which have become a hallmark of *Earth First!*, but we are going to become more selective in what we choose to print. Unfortunately, we are going to have to reject some very fine pieces in the future simply because we do not have space to print all the good material we are receiving.

There are several pioneering essays in this issue considering wilderness. George Wuerthner presents a totally original idea for wagon-wildernesses. Lynn Jacobs argues for the need for "gentle" wilderness. Bobcat discusses restoring wilderness salmon streams. And desert plant ecologist Gary Paul Nabhan asks us not to forget the endangered plants of the arid lands while engaged in the important work of preserving rainforests.

April shapes up to be a busy month for me. I'll be participating in the Grizzly Conference at the University of Colorado in Boulder April 4-5 to present the EF! Grizzly Task Force's recommendations. On April 9, I'll be at a rainforest conference in Austin, Texas, which is being organized by Texas EF!. Randy Hayes will also speak. April 11-13 will be the Texas Wilderness Pow Wow in East Texas where I'll be a speaker. Other speeches: April 21 at Colorado College in Colorado Springs; April 23 at University of Washington in Seattle; April 25 at San Diego State University in San Diego. From April 30 to May 3 I'll be doing a series of talks for the Pennsylvania Sierra Club. Then it's off to the Black Rock Desert and Owhyee Canyons.

Hang in there, Howie. We're with you.

-Dave Foreman



ACID RAIN IN YOUR AREA?

Please send any newspaper clippings mentioning Earth First! or dealing with subjects of interests to us at POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703. Clippings about monkeywrenching of any kind would also be appreciated. Thank you!

The Post Office does not forward Third Class Mail but they do charge us 30 cents apiece to to send us your change of address. Please send us your change of address promptly so you do not miss an issue of *Earth First!* and we do not have to pay the Post Office to receive it. Some people using clever aliases are not receiving their copies of *Earth First!*. Be sure to notify your postperson that "Attila the Hun" or "The Animal" receives mail at your address.

SCHEDULE

***Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal* is published 8 times a year on the old pagan European nature holidays: Samhain (November 1), Yule (December 21 or 22), Brigid (February 2), Eostar (March 21 or 22), Beltane (May 1), Litha (June 21 or 22), Lughnasadh (August 1), and Mabon (September 21 or 22). Deadlines for articles are three weeks before the cover date: October 10, December 1, January 10, March 1, April 10, June 1, July 10, and September 1. The newspaper is mailed Third Class on the cover date. First Class delivery is available for $10 extra a year. Airmail delivery overseas is available for $20 a year extra.**

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Although we do not accept the authority of the hierarchical state, nothing herein is intended to run us afoul of its police power. *Agents provocateurs* will be dealt with by the Grizzly Defense League on the Mirror Plateau.

Contributions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed, *double spaced*, and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Art or photographs (black & white prints preferred, color prints or slides OK) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Due to our tight budget, no payment is offered except for extra copies of the issue.

All material should be sent to Earth First!, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703, except for poetry which should go to Art Goodtimes, Box 1008, Telluride, CO 81435.

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Contributing Artists: Canyon Frog, Helen Wilson, Jim Stiles, John Zaelit, Karen Tanner, Mike Roselle, B. von Alten, T.O. Hellenbach, Lone Wolf Circles, Mad Jack, Bill Turk.

Contributing Photographers: David Cross, George Wuerthner, Howie Wolke, Ed Berger, Doug Peacock, Scott Smith.

Mailing: Tucson Earth First! Group

ADDRESSES

POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703 (602)622-1371: Letters to the Editor, Manuscripts, Art, Photographs, etc. for *Earth First!* ; Subscriptions, Changes of Address, Inquiries; Merchandise Orders; Clippings; General Correspondence.

POB 1008, Telluride, CO 81435 (303)728-4301: Poetry, Correspondence with Art Goodtimes.

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Lengthy letters may be edited for space requirement. Letters should be typed or carefully printed and double-spaced, using only one side of a sheet of paper. Be sure to indicate if you want your name and location to appear or if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.

Dear SFB,

After reading Ron Baker's letter to the editor in the Brigid Edition of EF!, I think you should no longer provide advertising space for his book in your journal. Certainly he has a right to display his ignorance in his book and in letters, but a full page ad in EF! connotes a good measure of ecological sense in his book. Although I have no intention to read his book, his comments reveal a fundamental misunderstanding of Nature, as dangerous perhaps as the ecological illiteracy of the Reagan Administration.

Every astute observer of nature, from ancient mystics in both East and West to modern naturalists and ecologists, has noted the diversifying effects of natural disturbance. Far from being destructive and "non-ecological," as Baker stupidly claims, fire, windthrow, landslides, and other natural disturbance events are responsible for maintaining environmental heterogeneity at multiple scales. Many wildlife species are dependent upon the early successional stages created by disturbances for food and other critical needs. Some native species are "fugitives" that cannot compete in climax communities and survive only by dispersing through recently disturbed patches. Even the climax community that Baker holds as a model (and "the evolutionary end towards which Nature strives") is diversified by small scale disturbances such as treefalls. And I'd like to see what evidence Baker has that Nature "strives" towards anything!

I have known a few other "environmentalists" with views similar to Baker's. Generally they are urbanites with little experience in the wilderness, and are interested in animal rights to the exclusion of other conservation concerns. They would have us devote as much attention to laboratory rabbits as to the grizzlies, or to white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse as to manatees or whooping cranes, as Baker admits. I see these people as counterproductive to conservation because they distract attention away from critical issues like habitat destruction, vanishing wilderness, and species extinction. In so doing, they are just as destructive of natural diversity as Reagan, Exxon, or Louisiana Pacific. Surely EF! wouldn't publish advertisements from these villians?

The solution to this problem of ignorance is a better ecological education for everyone, both in and out of school. Baker claims to be a "serious student of wildlife" and to have studied fire and other ecological phenomena extensively in the field. I don't know where he's been looking, but it surely isn't here on this earth. Here, fire and/or other elements of the natural regime (depending on which bioregion we are in) are absolutely critical in maintaining natural systems, and stand in marked contrast to human-generated disturbance and its accompanying roads and machines. For those readers interested in an excellent and recent ecological discussion of natural disturbance, see Pickett, S.T.A. and White, P.S. (1985), *The Ecology of Natural Disturbance and Patch Dynamics*, Academic Press, Orlando, FL, 472 pp. This book is well worth reading and effectively dispels the myths perpetrated by Ron Baker and others.

In wildness,
Reed Noss

Editor's reply: I completely agree.

Hey EF! Friends!

Rhoda Dendron, El Madrone and I kicked-off this year's action season with a recon to Millenium Grove. The trees are still standing. The soft moss underfoot, the towering giants above, the sweet forest scents, the silence . . . all lent a sense of permanance, of ultimate peace. Humans come and go but Earth goes on forever.

Yet the Millenium Grove — oldest known trees in Oregon — still sits on the industrial chopping block. In an attempt to change the situation, local environmeddlers and the deforest service have been meeting as the "Squaw Creek Task Force" to study possibilities for preservation of the area and to make a recommendation for the next "5 Year Plan" (National Forest politboro?). This is known as "working within the system" or "using proper channels," terms dear to the Freddies. After I missed the first two meetings, I invited myself — since no EF!ers had been formally invited — to represent an Earth First! position.

After a summer of negotiating from 80-feet-up, this new game, played around tables under flourescent lights, seemed contrived, with complex rules stacked in the "system's" favor and dealing only in abstractions of the forest reality. Here, we lacked the power of the trees, wilderness and Earth around us and so were required to compromise to gain anything. In such "power (force) politics," based on artificial hierarchies and backed-up with physical or institutional violence (or the tacit threat of it), we can only lose. Any "force" we may have within the system exists only to the extent that we accept the established game. Step out of line, ask too much, and force is withdrawn. If don't recognize these rules, we face accusations of "refusing to use legitimate channels to address our concerns."

The lesson here is that as Earth First!ers we mustn't limit ourselves to the established rules. When allowed to do so, "work within the system," but don't let your participation be used to legitimize the the system. Use it, instead, to justify your radical position by exposing the "planning process" for the farce and anti-ecological activity it is. Play the game and grab every bone tossed your way, but then head for the wilderness and fight like hell for what remains! Earth First!

The environmentalists in the Task Force are hard-working people who do a good job. Co-option aside, our Squaw Creek proposal doesn't look too bad: 2500 acres to be preserved as "super old-growth," "old-growth regeneration," "Research Natural Area," or "primitive, non-motorized recreation;" 3500 acres of "further study"; most roads to be closed, if not removed, and no logging or "salvage" to be allowed. This, of course, only if Kerrick accepts it when we present it, and then only if it makes its way through the planning process intact. The major sticking point is the "sold sale" in the heart of the Grove. These three "units" (typical Freddie way of relating to the forest) contain THE biggest trees and provided the stage for an epic tree sit-in last summer. On this point all environmentalists agree: NO CUT! By the time the Eostar *EF!* comes out we'll have had a press conference in the Grove. Willamette Industries has refused to negotiate on the contract and unilateral termination would have to come from the Chief — not a likely prospect. We've established a vigil/action camp in the Grove and we're recruiting watchers, climbers, equipment and funds for this summer.

-Doug Fir

Dave!

Here's a few goodies for you to chuckle at. First is a newspaper clipping showing a piece of nasty machinery being gobbled up by a pissed-off section of mudflat. The earth is on our side! Unfortunately the crane that came along actually did get the miserable backhoe out.

Second is a pretty piece of orange ribbon that I found attached to some strange square trees (with no bark!) that I found growing in Maine. I also found hundreds more of these strange ribbons on trees and on those strange square shrubs. Can you help me in identifying them? Are they some type of fungus? Maybe they are a blight that is spreading around the site of the Big A dam. I was seriously concerned that these fungal ribbons might be damaging to the trees, so I hastily removed them all. These fungi were growing in an orderly row along the ridge just to the south of the West Branch of the Penobscot river. The view was fantastic! In fact it should be a great spot for a scenic turnout once the lake comes in! I walked along the ridge disinfecting the poor trees by removing these unnatural occurrences. It was a pleasant walk, but still I am disturbed. Did these fungi leave their spores behind? Will more grow to replace them? A friend told me that these orange things are used by breeders of heavy equipment. They dip these ribbons in a sex lure and that draws droves of yellow machinery. They then rut in the mud and feed on trees, soil and rocks. After this bizarre mating ritual they move on the the next row of sex lures . . . . What are these orange things? Tree parasites? Sex lure for diesel cats?

CHILDREN OF THE EARTH IN MAINE! RISE UP AND THROW OFF THE TYRANNY OF THE EARTH RAPERS! EARTH FIRST!

Strong Pine

P.S. Hurry up Rendezvous!

Dear SFB,

I'm writing in response to the question by "The Head of Joaquin," "Where are you, Henry Mota?" I'm alive and well here in Elko, "The Belly of the Beast." I've been busy preparing my testimony for the Elko senatorial hearing on 2-11-86, put on by Senator Hecht concerning his ludicrous wilderness bill S.722. Those of us in Elko who love wilderness are a vocal minority. Wilderness doesn't need defending, just more defenders.

"Sleaze from the Slickrock" is my favorite column in the *EF!* journal, and those folks in SUWA get my vote. Three cheers for SUWA!

There will be a group converging on both the Burr Trail and the Island in the Sky from several states this spring. The date, for security reasons, is classified. We must defend these places. The "Head of Joaquin" said, "The (Island in the Sky) new road will not ruin the Island." I disagree. It is a desecration of a sacred place. Going there this spring and seeing the progress on the road will be painful for me. And will make me dangerously angry. There's no longer any room for compromise.

Henry Mota

Dear SFB

"Go through the process." Good advice? In theory, yes, but in fact, as many EF!ers know, that's the way to get put off, put down, and worse.

Here's how the "legitimate channels" are working for the landowners and bay users around Straight Bay in Maine. It began with a legal notice in an obscure weekly informing us that an individual had applied for a preliminary permit, a precursor to a license to dam our bay. A license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission carries with it immense powers, like the right to eminent domain, the right to take private property, to cause uncompensated harm to landowners and clammers, to violate the rights of the wildlife.

But in the legal notice it said there was a chance to object — an "administrative appeal." Anyone could write a letter as protest. And nearly 100 people did! Good letters from people who believed in the process went to the Washington offices of FERC.

Shortly after the deadline for the letter writing, I went to the offices of FERC. We had so much confidence in the process that I went to find out what to do next. My visit to Washington was a real eye opener. For starters, the individual in charge of this project waved his hand at the file bulging with letters. "These letters don't mean a thing," the FERC employee said, "This stupid government gives more protection to a stupid eagle's nest than it does to an aborted baby."

I came back from Maine sadder but wiser. I came back to the frustrations of using the "process": letters written but never answered, requests made but never acknowledged.

We'll still use the "legitimate channels" and the administrative and legal options. They take time and money and a high tolerance for frustration, but we have to try. But it's not hard to see why folks take their protests to the streets, why they put down their pens and start waving signs with the EF! word. And the next time the *Wall Street Journal* complains about Earth First! and wants to understand why housewives are radicalized, have them call me. I've got a case history for them.

Anyone who wants to help prevent the destruction of Straight Bay could contact the Straight Bay Association, RFD 1, Box 149A, Lubec, ME 04652. Thanks for the help.

Nancy
Lubec, Maine

Dear Dave and company,

A plea for advice: The George Washington National Forest consists of 1,055,000 acres in Virginia and West Virginia; 153,000 acres were recommended for evaluation as possible Wilderness Areas under the RARE II inventory conducted in 1979. Of the 153,000 acres, only 16,815 were designated Wilderness by the Virginia Wilderness Bill of 1984. An additional 14,130 in two parcels were put "under study." The two tracts under study are still "pending" because WESTVACO is afraid designation will upgrade the area to Class I Clean Air Designation. Heaven forbid! In the balance we have 122,000 acres of old growth eastern timber waiting to be chopped down or saved. I contacted the GWNF office in Harrisonburg, VA in order to start receiving announcements of all timber sales, the same reports the guys with the saws get. If my suspicions hold true, many of the sales will occur in areas that might have received Wilderness designation in 1984. What should I do with all this information? I have previously written to ask you all about putting a flyer in the Journal. This may be the time. There are enough eco-defenders here to raise a stink. But I'm not sure how to pursue it.

Now for something different. I recently received mail from EF! that mentioned the intention to have a lobbyist come to the Federal City to work on the Hells Canyon and other issues. I am sure I am not the person you want, but I might be able to help. I work in the evenings so I have all day to be productive. I could send a resume. If you need help it is here.

John D. Hutchinson V
1353 Taylor Str. NW, Washington, DC 20011

continued on pg. 23

USUAL DISGUSTING PLEA FOR MONEY

The Earth First! movement runs on your financial support. We don't need as much as other groups since we are grassroots, volunteer, decentralized and have low overhead. Moreover, you get to select where your hard-earned money goes. Don't send your contributions to this newspaper, send it directly to one of these hard working groups:

***Earth First! Foundation, POB 86, Moab, UT 84532**
(contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible)

***Colorado Earth First!, POB 1166, Boulder, CO 80306**

***Howie Wolke Legal Defense Fund, Box 7058, Jackson, WY 83001**

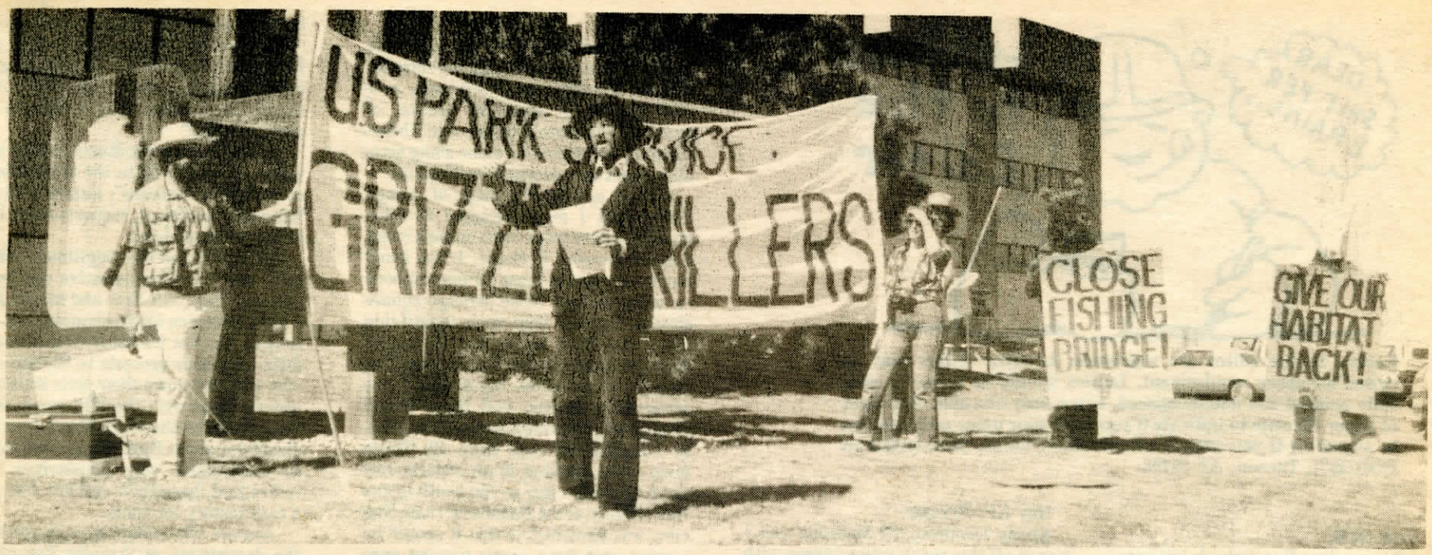
***Arizona Earth First!, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703**

***Montana Earth First!, Rt. 1, Box 44K, St. Ignatius, MT 59865**

***Texas Earth First!, POB 7292, University Station, Austin, TX 78713**

***Oregon Earth First!, POB 605, Joseph, OR 97846**

EF! Grizzly Bear Task Force, POB 7572, Missoula, MT 59807** *This fundraising appeal is placed as a service to the Earth First! movement.* ***THANK YOU for your support!



Denver Bears Protest Yellowstone

by Gainesburger

Dogmeat the Berserker had spoken and Colorado Earth First! apeared at the National Park Service Regional Headquarters in Denver to answer the call. At the Park Service sign in a landscaped decorator "environment," complete with token pines, we unfurled Brush Wolf's banner, "U.S. PARK SERVICE: GRIZZLY KILLERS."

On one side of the knoll a fisherman and tourist displayed full regalia. On the other, bears roamed, their sign proclaiming "Close Fishing Bridge" and "Give Our Habitat Back." The assembled media types hung back, apparently too sophisticated to become mere spectators to our version of Bear Wars. We commenced.

"Earth First! has come here today to the scene of the bureaucratic crime to set the record straight on a national tragedy that should become a national scandal. We therefore present: The Yellowstone NP Grizzly Bear Massacre, or Death by Condo. The curtain rises on the shores of Yellowstone Lake, a vanishing splendor, prime griz habitat. On one side is Fishing Bridge Campground, appropriated from the bears long ago. On the other is a priceless remnant of the highest quality lakeshore bear feeding grounds, now coveted by condomaniacs. Enter a ranger and well-heeled business type. An envelope is passed."

Suit: Howdy, I'm Alan Simpson. The Cody Chamber of Commerce, I mean my constituents, would like you to accept a small token of our esteem.

Ranger: Small? Thanks, bub. (turns, rifle in hand) All right! You bears have to go. We need a multi-million dollar resort here so the American people can enjoy nature while spending money in the manner to which they are accustomed.

Bear: But where are we supposed to live?

R: Well, we're a-gonna close Fishing Bridge.

B: Hmmm . . . we do need that back, and since you're the one with the gun, let's go.

R: Not so fast there, bear. We don't close the campground until Grant Village opens. Otherwise, critical tourist habitat might be inconvenienced.

B: But where are we supposed to live?

R: That's your problem. Be sure you stay away from people.

B: But they're all over the dang place!

R: Tough toenails. Get going! (Blam!) Okay, bring on the bulldozers! Let's see condos! Order up some more plastic bullets and red pepper spray. We'll larn them bars.

"Although Grant Village opened for summer 1985, Fishing Bridge Campground remains open, pending completion of an EIS in 1987. Earth First! believes all land is sacred and humans must use wisdom to remain in balance with creation. We hope the American people will react with outrage at the greedy exploitation of the Yellowstone region by bureaufats and businessmen who act as though nothing is sacred. Destruction of habitat is killing the griz.

"If the US people allow the flagship of their Park system to be sacrificed to gross commercialism, then we in disgrace should rename the Park 'Spend-a-Buck National Park' and its managers the 'Natural Sell-Out Service.'"

We followed our skit with a brief road show as we went window shopping around the offices of the Regional Director of the Circus, Lorraine Mintzmyer. We planted our banner beneath the American flag, under the den of the head honcha.

As a crew held fast under the flag, a contingent of bears and spokespersons entered the glass and concrete to confront the bureau-beast in its lair. Two gents squeezed into the elevator with us and asked , "Do you have a permit for this?" I replied, "We just want to talk to Lorraine Mintzmyer."

The head cookie, mindful of the NBC TV crew that had followed us inside, soon appeared. We then had the distinct pleasure of witnessing, as cameras whirred and microphones swiveled, the interview of the Park Service Regional Director by grizzly bear. To the bear's concern about its own existence and its intimate knowledge of the history of its Yellowstone habitat, the flustered boss could only offer apologias in bureaucratese. At one point she admitted that it was not mandatory that Fishing Bridge remain open during completion of the EIS. Eventually we shook hands and paws and departed, expressing our hope that the Park Service's stated desire to protect the griz would result in meaningful action.

Thank god we'll never be bureaucrats!

Gainesburger is a popular dog food that comes in small packets.

Yellowstone Sued on Fishing Bridge

by George Balu

The Campaign for Yellowstone's Bears and a former Yellowstone Park ranger, David Smith, plan to sue Secretary of Interior Hodel and other Department of Interior officials to force them to close Yellowstone's Fishing Bridge Campground, which is in prime grizzly bear habitat.

The National Park Service (NPS) had an agreement to close Fishing Bridge prior to 1985, but Park officials, citing political pressure from Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson, broke the agreement and kept the campground open last summer. This is a violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Department of Interior has received three formal notices of "Intent to Bring Suit" within sixty days. This court case will be a war. The Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are on trial. If we lose, we may lose the most powerful environmental legislation on the books. But if we can't win at Fishing Bridge, there's no sense having the ESA and NEPA.

Analyses of the Fishing Bridge controversy have overlooked two vital questions: 1) was there any sound basis for the Grant Village/Fishing Bridge tradeoff, and 2) why didn't Senator Simpson oppose the Fishing Bridge closures before the NPS spent millions on Grant Village? First let's determine if there was any rational basis for the Grant Village/Fishing Bridge trade-off.

In June, 1979, the Park Service asked the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to review its proposal to build 700 condominium-styled hotel units at Grant Village. NPS plans indicated the Grant Village development would destroy grizzly habitat, increase the risk of human injuries caused by bears, and increase bear mortalilty. The FWS should have vetoed this plan before the NPS signed contracts for construction (in bureaucratic language, the FWS should have rendered a "jeopardy" opinion on the NPS's 1979 Grant Village Environmental Assessment before Yellowstone Park officials made any irreversible commitments of resources). But in October, 1979 — before the NPS had funding for Grant — the FWS gave the NPS a "no-jeopardy" biological opinion on the proposed Grant development, provided the NPS agree to remove "facilities" from Fishing Bridge. There was no need to explain what "facilities" because the only facilities at Fishing Bridge were a 308 site campground, a 358 unit R.V. park, and 234 cabins which had been closed for years. Removing the cabins would not constitute an equitable trade-off for the adverse impact Grant would have on grizzlies. That left only the campground and R.V. park. But in December, 1980 — just days after the NPS signed $3 million in contracts for initial construction at Grant — the FWS claimed it had re-examined the Grant Village Environmental Assessment and couldn't determine if the NPS planned to close the Fishing Bridge campground and R.V. park.

It's ludicrous that the FWS approved the trade if it didn't know what facilities had been traded. And there was no basis for a trade other than the campground and R.V. park. Rather than stop the development before the NPS obtained funds for it, the FWS set up a bogus trade and then feigned confusion about the terms of that trade until the NPS made financial commitments for construction at Grant. The Endangered Species Act is meaningless unless the FWS weighs scientific facts to determine if developments like Grant Village will jeopardize the survival of threatened and endangered species.

The fraudulent trade is just one aspect of Yellowstone's Watergate. Let's examine why Senator Simpson and park concessionaire Trevor Povah didn't oppose Fishing Bridge closures before the NPS spent millions on Grant.

On January 26, 1981, the late Yellowstone Park Superintendent John Townsley told the FWS he planned to close Fishing Bridge, but not until 1985. The NPS wanted a few years to build Grant before telling the public it had traded their Fishing Bridge campsites for condos at Grant. The FWS gave the NPS time to build. The FWS ignored the fact that Fishing Bridge campgrounds close every fall; the NPS could simply keep them closed, and the Fishing Bridge area would be a good place for grizzlies to live again. In the summer of 1983, when construction of the first 300 units at Grant was completed, the NPS conducted public meetings to announce the Fishing Bridge closures. Park officials didn't tell the public about the trade. People couldn't understand why the NPS was closing Fishing Bridge; they opposed the closures.

Park officials say a "storm of protest" blocked the closures. Now the NPS is writing an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the potential economic impact the closures might have on human communities in the Yellowstone region. The EIS won't be done until 1987 — two years after the NPS was supposed to close Fishing Bridge. Meanwhile, a recent NPS study says, "Fishing Bridge operating in concert with Grant Village has a potential cumulative effect that is disastrous."

Senator Simpson and Trevor Povah led the fight against the closures. Didn't the NPS tell them about the closures before building Grant Village? Yellowstone's Masterplan emphasized the need for regional planning. Plans within the Park have a significant economic impact on cities and states adjacent to Yellowstone. Tourist towns like Cody, Wyoming, and West Yellowstone, Montana, would want to know about a plan to close one-fourth of Yellowstone's campsites in exchange for building a $40 million hotel. Povah had the most to lose financially if Fishing Bridge closed and he has powerful political connections: he belongs to the same riding club as President Reagan. If Simpson and Povah didn't know about the trade, the public certainly wouldn't know and the NPS did not fulfill its obligations to the National Environmental Policy Act. The public was not informed because the NPS wanted to build Grant AND keep Fishing Bridge open. There was a conspiracy between the NPS and FWS. The question now is if Simpson and Povah knew about the closures all along and kept quiet until Grant Village was opened.

Ever since white people set foot on this continent, they've been battling the grizzly bear. Even the Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service — the agencies now responsible for saving our last few grizzlies — are trying to exterminate the bear. But the Department of Interior may have gone too far this time. When Yellowstone's grizzlies goto court, they should win the war for Fishing Bridge.

To Help: Tell your representatives in Congress (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510; House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) that the Justice Department and Congress should investigate Yellowstone's Watergate, force the closure of Fishing Bridge and halt the construction of Grant Village.

Great Montana Wild West Exposition

by Barb & Gary Steele, with additions by "Sidewinder" and Jim Stoltz

Montana Earth First! started organizing its "Great Montana Wild West Exposition" after receiving a grant from the EF! Foundation two months in advance of going on the road. We first lined up the Montana musician Walkin' Jim Stoltz. Walkin' Jim agreed to do all 10 shows, which made organization simpler since he was the carrying power that the Expo needed. Then we looked in our Montana EF! core group and found the other talent necessary for the show.

Next we lined up people in each of the towns we planned to visit to locate a place to have the Expo, put up posters, and find lodging. Our artist, Sidewinder, did an outrageous poster design, which we used for our T-shirts and for the backdrop for the show. Paul Richards wrote our brochure and we hired a professional lay-out artist to make it look nice.

We went to a TV station in Missoula with Montana's famous singer LeGrande Harvey and filmed a 30 second video tape with LeGrande telling Montanans about our wild lands. We included scenes of elk, moose, trout, and mountain scenery. When we finished we had a top quality video to send as a PSA to every TV station in the state.

We found that some stations need four weeks advance time to get a clip on the air. Also, prime time spots must be purchased to ensure maximum viewing audience. We got a list of all the press in every town we planned to visit. Barb Steele sent out typed PSAs to radio, newspaper, and TV offices, announcing our show. We later learned that you have to monitor each office to ensure PSAs are placed, and that the information is correct.

All this organizational work took great amounts of time and energy. Barb did most of it and, it took a toll on her. At some point you have to give some of the work to others.

Another aspect of organization was getting the equipment needed for a show of three hours, with intermission. We did not want to depend on other sources for putting on the show. We brought our own slide projectors, extension cords, spot lights, a pole frame that supported our wildlife backdrop, and PA system. We brought a ghetto blaster for recording the show and for background "wild sounds" music before and after each show. We brought coffee makers and refreshment supplies for intermissions. Having this stuff lessens your dependence on others and the amount of organization that has to be done in each town, which we highly recommend. It does entail, however, more rigs. We had three small cars and a small trailer for our eight people and gear.

We initially decided to have an advance car at least one day ahead of the main caravan. This group would check details of each town before we got there, and would do press work and make sure our ads were aired. Unfortunately, we dropped this idea shortly before we left, to save money. In retrospect, we should have had less people in the show, and stuck to the advance group idea. Many times we arrived at a town to find mistakes in ads. When these problems became apparent, we sent one of the cars ahead with Walkin' Jim and two others to do press work.

A guess for total attendance is 500. We were on TV news, radio interviews, and in newspapers with our message: Preserve ALL of Montana's remaining 6.5 million acres of roadless wild country. We made contacts in every town, got two sets of video tapes of our show which will be condensed and syndicated if possible, and left a wake wherever we traveled. We were left with the feeling that plenty of Montanans support the idea of preserving the last remnants of wild lands here, and that all that is needed are spirits moving amongst them to unite that support.

I recommend some changes in our approach to a road show. First, I'd like to see sedatives freely administered at key points along the way, to ensure group sanity. Second, becoming masters of media manipulation is a must. To compete with corporate conglomerates for the imagination of the public you have to have prime time TV ads, full newspaper ads, and newsworthy promotional stunts all engineered well in advance of showtime. Third, three hours is too long for the show. While folks gave us rave reviews, most admitted that it was too long. Speeches should be kept short and powerful with entertainment sprinkled between . Fourth, we should have used more slides, maybe a short movie or two. Visual effects strengthen our emotional message. Lastly, don't get so wrapped up in the show that you forget to have fun.

The Expo was an effective, successful adventure for all of us. Congressman Pat Williams saw our effectiveness, and

Jim Stoltz

took steps to squash our efforts to increase public awareness with his accusations of "terrorism" and "terrorist activities" promoted by Earth First! As Montana EF! sees it, Pat Williams is the one promoting terrorism. In the words of JFK, "Those who make peaceful change impossible, make violent change inevitable."

The Steeles, "Sidewinder," and Walkin' Jim are among Montana's finest ecological activists.

Flathead Plan a Grizzly Killer

by Gary Steele

The Flathead National Forest Plan, the first final Forest Plan to come out of the Forest Service's Northern Region, has been described by conservationists as a blueprint for ecological disaster in the northern Rockies. The Flathead National Forest, adjacent to Canada and Glacier National Park in northwest Montana, offers the best hope in the lower 48 states for recovery of the threatened grizzly bear, endangered Rocky Mountain Wolf, bald eagle and a host of other species.

But the Flathead Forest Plan takes a different direction: more clearcut logging; over 3000 miles of new road, most of which is to be built in critical grizzly bear habitat and heretofore unroaded sections of the Forest; "a substantial reduction in the existing old growth stands on the forest"; and calls for a big increase in roaded and off road motorized recreation throughout the habitat of the grizzly and wolf.

The Flathead contains critical habitat for four listed threatened and endangered species, likely habitat for the scarce woodland caribou, and perhaps the richest assemblage of native vertebrate species in the Rocky Mountains. Yet the FS chooses to spend the greater portion of the 1700 pages of the Plan and EIS complaining about the increased costs to their timber mining operations resulting from such gifts of nature.

Despite opposition by both conservationists and loggers to the planned 3000 miles of roads to be added to the 3900 miles of open roads already on the Forest, the Final Plan does not back off at all from the proposals of the Draft Plan. Loggers have sought through Forest planning to limit road construction and close existing roads to make timber harvests palatable and cost effective in the Forest. Yet the FS, amid spoken promises to the contrary, still plans to "maximize public motorized access."

A lack of resolve prevails in the FS's approach to controlling ORV use of its biologically sensitive lands. FS policy is simple: If it's not wilderness, it's an off-road vehicle playground. While portions of the Forest are mapped for "non-motorized recreation," the FS openly advises ORV users that there is no law broken in taking an ORV into "non-motorized" recreation areas! It seems the management philosophy of the Flathead Plan is "Cut It or Rut It!"

Clearcut timber harvests of 30-40 acres will be allowed to increase 30% over the average annual cut for the past decade. Bending to the wishes of large timber companies, the Flathead, under its Plan, will be able to harvest up to 130 million board feet of timber annually. Many wildlife species, on a watershed by watershed basis, will disappear under such a plan.

Grizzlies fared worst of all! No road closures were called for under the Plan, and the FS intends to manage only108,732 acres of existing occupied Situation 1 grizzly habitat in a manner to increase bear numbers. Despite a Congressional mandate to the contrary, and while bragging that they have the most grizzly bears and the best habitat of any Forest in the lower 48, the Flathead planners offered only 5% of their over two million acres of occupied grizzly habitat to the bears. The Forest Service suggests that this 108,732 acres is enough to enable the grizzly population to recover.

The Plan performs similar miracles with the gray wolf (Rocky Mountain wolf). Most of the non-Wilderness mid and low elevation old growth and stream bottoms are prey to timber harvests and road building; much to the detriment of wolves, grizzlies, moose, elk, deer, and other critters dependent on old growth. Management of the wolf prey base (deer, elk, and moose) will not reflect their importance to wolf recovery. According to the Plan, the wolf, which only a couple years ago was not thought to be present in the Forest except when passing through, now is represented by a 10-20 member wolf pack in the Canadian border area of the Flathead's North Fork. The FS now boasts that "we believe the Forest has probably already achieved its recovery goal." Ten to twenty wolves does not constitute recovery under the National Wolf Recovery Plan.

Of the 495,000 acres of key roadless lands, only 98,000 are recommended for Wilderness classification, and the areas recommended for Wilderness were selected to ensure minimum impact on the commercial timber base. The only areas recommended were those where timber harvests could not have occurred anyway, such as in the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. Areas not later classified by Congress as Wilderness, rather than be maintained for their primitive character, will become subject to the multiple abuses of the chain saw, bulldozer and off-road vehicle. The FS maintains that they can manage for the grizzly better through roads and "vegetative manipulations" (which, of course, will include timber harvests) than through Wilderness designation.

No Wilderness was recommended for any of the seven roadless areas on the North Fork of the Flathead, adjacent to Glacier Park. The Plan proposes a series of large clearcuts in the Whitefish Range, facing the western slopes of Glacier Park, during the next decade. The Plan also fails to protect grizzly bear movement corridors between Glacier Park and the Great Bear Wilderness Area.

The Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas, which have already been seriously degraded by unrestricted pack animal use, were handed over almost exclusively for the use of commercial outfitters and those who enter these Wilderness Areas on horseback. No major trails were designated solely for the use of hikers. It will be impossible to get lost in these Wilderness Areas in the future — just follow the continuous line of horse and mule shit!

The Plan calls for the continued clearcutting of the last continuous old growth corridor between Glacier Park and the Whitefish Divide to the west of the Park. This grizzly, elk, moose and wolf corridor and feeding area is located principally in the Whale Creek drainage of the Glacier View Ranger District.

In an attempt to justify continuing large scale clearcutting, the Plan states, "Wildlife diversity can best be achieved by intensive clearcut logging systems." The Plan implies that wildlife will merely adjust to clearcut logging by moving from one remaining securrty patch of timber to another through the decades. Forest Supervisor Ed Brannon should be sent back to his Ivy League home for a refresher course in wildlife management! Some of these management decisions can be explained by Brannon's recent appointment of a fire officer, with no biological training, to the post of Forest Wildlife Biologist.

To Help: Write your congressperson expressing your dissatisfaction with the Flathead National Forest Plan and demanding appropriate revision with wildlife/Wilderness management emphasis.

The Montana Earth First! appeal of the Flathead National Forest Plan is a 39 page, detailed, professional legal document that can serve as an excellent model for other Earth First! groups in appealing Forest Plans in their area. For a copy, contact EF! in Tucson.

SHOVE IT (continued)

Barbee came unglued when EF!ers asked why Johnny come latelies like Simpson and Povah didn't oppose the Fishing Bridge closures before the NPS built Grant Village.

"Ask them," the quick-witted bureaucrat replied.

The answer is obvious. Politicians only wanted the NPS to build Grant Village — a "park barrel project." The NPS never intended to close Fishing Bridge. But Simpson, Povah and Park officials knew the public wouldn't want to trade its campsites at Fishing Bridge for hotel rooms at Grant Village, so they sneaked their Grant Village plan past the public in 1981.

Yellowstone's Watergate stinks. Conservationists are taking the Department of Interior to court to close Fishing Bridge. When lawyers and judges ask Barbee the same questions EF! asked, it will be interesting to see if he tells them to "shove it."

Photo by Gary Brausch. Copyright 1984.

A NATIONAL OLD GROWTH CAMPAIGN

by Cecilia Ostrow

As part of EF! and the Cathedral Forest Action Group (CFAG), I have defended old growth for years. We worked to develop a proposal to create the Cathedral Forest National Monument to preserve what remains of America's old growth ecosystems. We got bogged down trying to map existing old growth so that we could propose saving it. I then realized that we don't need to map it. The way to preserve all remaining old growth is to outlaw cutting it. We need a designation for old growth ecosystems which is similar to endangered species designation.

After designation, land surrounding old growth should be evaluated in terms of the value of its preservation to the health of the larger ecosystem of which it is a part. This was not done in RARE II.

Finally, a process is needed to evaluate public lands where the original old growth has been largely destroyed, and to implement a regeneration of the old growth ecosystem. An example of a place where this is necessary is BLM and Forest Service land in the Oregon Coast Range. Eastern forests could also benefit from a program like this.

This is not to say that maps are not desirable; but what this approach does is help environmentalists in every forested or previously-forested area in the country to join forces to mount a national old growth campaign. I worried, when we tried to draw our maps, that even if we got a National Monument, a compromise would be reached which would assure the extinction of all old growth which didn't make it into the final monument boundaries. This happened in California's Redwood National Park and other places. By outlawing cutting of old growth, we eliminate that danger.

A combination of factors (with consciousness-raising through civil disobedience being a big factor) is now setting the stage for a successful national campaign for old growth. Several years ago, people thought we were crazy to talk about preserving all our country's remaining old growth. Now, with Audubon and other national groups adopting old growth preservation as a priority, we don't sound so crazy. Besides, there's a lot less old growth now than there was two years ago.

Cathedral Forest National Monument — A Four-Point Plan

Point 1: An old growth Douglas fir tree shall be defined by its possession of three of the following characteristics: a. 200 years old; b. more than three feet in diameter measured at chest height; c. more than ?? feet tall; d. spreading crown structure, dead or broken top.

(Sections will follow describing old growth criteria for Sitka spruce, hemlock, Western red cedar, silver fir, noble fir, grand fir, etc. The listing could also include Texas cypress, aspen, and other trees. I need your help. Please contribute tree species and/or scientific criteria for old growth to this list. Perhaps for purposes of preservation — not for scientific study — simply being 200 years old is enough for most species of trees.) These trees shall be preserved as remnants of endangered ecosystems. Collectively, they shall be called the Cathedral Forest National Monument (CFNM).

Point 2: An old growth forest shall be defined as follows: (Succinct description follows. May be necessary to define each type of old growth forest. Help needed here.) These forests shall be preserved as endangered ecosystems.

Point 3: Federal lands which may not contain old growth trees, but which adjoin and/or connect old growth trees or forests shall be extensively evaluated to assess their importance in maintaining the integrity of the adjacent old growth ecosystem. Where it is determined that preservation or regeneration of these lands is of vital importance in maintaining the health of adjacent old growth ecosystems, they shall be regenerated and/or preserved as endangered ecosystems.

Point 4: On Federal lands where most of the original old growth forest has been destroyed, existing stands of native trees which have not yet developed old growth characteristics, but which have grown up naturally after fires or logging, shall be evaluated to determine their value in recovering the original character and health of the old growth ecosystem. Where it is determined that their preservation is vital to recovering and preserving the original ecosystem, these stands shall be preserved. Where it is determined that regeneration or preservation of adjoining lands, or lands which connect existing stands of potential old growth, is necessary in order to assure the recovery and preservation of the original ecosystem, these lands will be regenerated and/or preserved.

I have sent 30 copies of this proposal to environmentalists all over the West. Some of the responses I have received so far:

"I agree that we usually compromise with a line on a map that makes no ecological sense. We buy into the system of parcels, national forest boundaries, section lines. Our political compromises such as Redwood National Park are a mockery. We 'get a bill' and thus think we have succeeded but we fail to protect the integrity of ecosystems.

"You have proposed a whole new concept for a National Monument. You have transcended the static 19th century definition of the social institution of national park or designated wilderness area. You have combined a concept of preservation and conservation. And you have begun to provide a practical definition of 'old growth.'" [Bill Devall]

"Old growth should certainly be a major focal point in the issue (without the preservation of old growth there can be no naturally functioning West Slope and Coast Range ecosystems), but the real goal is to restore naturally functioning ecosystems. Historically, this included extensive 'old growth' forests interspersed with various serial stages due to bugs, fire, wind, flood, etc. Just don't ignore the bigger ecological picture, so the Freddies can't use their old worn-out arguments that 'old growth isn't a real issue because natural catastrophes will eventually wipe out most any given stand, so we might as well log it.'" [Howie Wolke]

"A first step might be to require the Forest Service just to 'register' old growth. . . ." [Tim McKay, Northcoast Environmental Center, Arcata, CA]

EF!ers, please critique these ideas. Is this four-point proposal the best way to present them? What would you be willing to do to support and promote this proposal or a similar proposal. Please help provide scientific information.

What to do now? It seems reasonable to circulate this version of the proposal as an informal petition or lobbying statement. We could join forces with people circulating various initiatives. It makes sense to form a political action group so that people can check off $25 from their income tax to support candidates who support the monument.

The Oregon Coalition for Alternative Human Services, the non-profit corporation which publishes *The Alliance Newspaper*, has agreed to take on the Cathedral Forest Monument campaign as one of its projects. This will enable us to mail at non-profit rates, receive tax-deductible donations, and apply more easily for grants.

Is this an issue Green organizers would like to champion? It would fit in with a campaign to create a sustainable economy and way of life. I'd like to hear from all of you who are interested in working on this campaign. Please call or write me here at The Alliance, 503-239-4991, POB 14742, Portland, OR 97214.

After solidifying support for old growth in the Northwest, we could expand the campaign goals to include ALL endangered ecosystems in the US (or on the continent). As we (from the Northwest) go from place to place talking about endangered ecosystems, we will invite each region to devise a proposal to protect their own ecosystems. Each plan would become part of the whole project. The campaign would function as a network to share information. Each region could work to gain national recognition of all efforts.

The challenge now is to find ways to implement the proposals. Lou Gold of Oregon has conducted prayer vigils atop Bald Mountain in the threatened North Kalmiopsis Wilderness for the past few summers. His articles and his energy have inspired many people. How do we spread that energy? Prayer vigils in cities? Some people in Eugene dug up a street and planted trees. Here is a program I like, subject to changes from all of you:

1. Set up brainstorming sessions to solidify language of the old growth proposal outlined above, and to develop strategies for implementing it.

2. Plan a mid-summer Old Growth Task Force Conference, preferably in some centrally-located old growth — perhaps Oregon's Middle Santiam drainage — to form strategy and a communications network among all groups participating in the effort. An alternative place for this meeting might be the Cascadia Bioregional Conference scheduled in Olympia, WA, for mid-July.

3. At the Task Force meeting prepare a proposal to take to the Second North American Bioregional Conference, to be held in Michigan, in late August. At NABC II, make contacts to set up a national tour for the campaign.

My music is one of the ways that I can communicate the need to save old wild nature. I hope to take my acoustic band, "All Life is Equal," to the NABC II to perform, and to tour with the band throughout the US and British Columbia next fall or winter. I will speak about old growth and networking among ecosystems defenders across the continent.

Meetings we are organizing include the following:

April 12: Workshop on Old Growth Preservation at the Siskiyou Bioregional Conference in Ashland, Oregon. For info, call Pedro Tama, 503-592-3934.

April 19-20: Cascadia EF! Old Growth Task Force meeting in Estacada, OR (see map). For info, call Sue and Tim Coleman at 503-236-5860; or me at 503-239-4991; or George Draffan in Seattle at 522-8000; or Paul Fink in Olympia at 943-7999; or MB Nearing in Corvallis at 754-9151.

Evergreen State College Earth Day, Olympia, WA. Contact Kate Crockett, Environmental Resource Center, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98502.

HELL IN HELLS CANYON COUNTRY

by Ric Bailey

The battle to preserve the Hells Canyon Country has taken bizarre twists since Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) introduced the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Conservation Act (S.1803) last October. The Packwood Bill would designate 300,000 acres of Wilderness in the Oregon portion of the National Recreation Area (NRA) as well as incorporating 34 miles of the Snake River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and imposing a 1 million board foot limitation on annual timber harvest.

The Packwood Bill is, by the standards of most environmental groups, very good. Yet it is insufficient by Earth First! reckoning in that Idaho wildlands were not included due to the recognition of political boundaries, and the irresponsible nature of powerful Idaho Senator James McClure.

Opponents of the Packwood legislation are led by Boise Cascade Corporation, an honorless outfit with a history of forest devastation, corruption, and maltreatment of its employees. A handful of boisterous Wallowa County organizations, including the Wallowa County Court, and the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, veritable puppets of Boise Cascade (BC), have engaged in slanderous attacks on Packwood and supporters of added federal protection for Hells Canyon Country.

It appears that the Forest Service may have consented to lay down before the wrath of BC as well. In a despicable act of partisan politics, the Forest Service revised long-standing NRA timber harvest figures, setting up Packwood for an embarassing incident. On January 7, Packwood appeared in Wallowa County armed with figures provided by the FS which indicated minuscule timber harvest levels in what is now the NRA, refuting arguments by pro-logging forces that enactment of his new bill would drastically reduce timber supply to local sawmills. (The NRA Act requires timber harvests be limited to "historical levels." The FS, of course, has interpreted this to mean that they must meet those levels, cutting the maximum allowed by law. The debate is over what those levels are.)

During this meeting, attended by over 150 people and the press, Gerald Perren, an officious little man representing the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, confronted Packwood over his figures, stating that his own higher figures were accurate. After the meeting, Packwood criticized Perren for deliberately misleading people with fabricated data. Perren admitted that he could not produce a source for his figures. Later that day, Packwood publicly called Perren's and Boise Cascade's figures "lies."

But the trap was sprung two days later, when the FS suddenly produced "new data" on past timber harvests which matched those presented by Perren and BC almost identically. Packwood was forced to publicly apologize to Perren, and volutarily put the new Hells Canyon legislation "on hold."

No one should be naive enough to dismiss the probability that Packwood was set up by an act of collusion between Hells Canyon opponents and the Forest Service. The difficulty is proving such collusion, and disproving the newly fabricated timber figures. When the FS holds the data, they can manipulate it to suit their purpose. The FS has, however, set themselves up for ridicule whereby their statements through eight years of the Hells Canyon planning process were conflicted by their own "newly acquired" data. In short, through 16 years of "management" in the Hells Canyon Country, the Forest Service has had no idea how much they've cut, where it was cut, when, nor what the overall impacts to other resources were.

The Forest Service should be made to pay for their insolence. Oregon EF! is pushing for litigation against them for violation of the Hells Canyon NRA Act, and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. We will also push for a congressional investigation of these incidents, as well as imposition of an administrative moratorium on all logging within Hells Canyon NRA until the FS can produce factual data on what they've been doing in the NRA.

But dealing with other opponents of Hells Canyon protection is another matter. Their smear tactics and threats have daunted a lot of respectable people into believing their livelihood is dependent upon logging the sparse timber contained in the NRA (70% of Packwood's wilderness proposal is not even forested). But the problem is mostly with the less respectable; the reckless ignorants who care only about the potency of their wallets, and the relegation of all forests to industrial liquidation. Some of these have resorted to scare tactics which have caused nearly all local supporters of increased protection for Hells Canyon to keep silent. The local millworkers union organized a boycott of businesses supporting the Packwood Bill. After the local newspaper came out with an editorial criticizing the insensitivity and unreliability of the timber industry in general, the boycott was extended to all businesses advertising in that paper.

Recently, State Senator Mike Thorne (apparently under orders from BC) has gone after the job of a local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist who has professionally supported protection of Hells Canyon as a means of guarding a valuable fishery resource.

I have received death threats via telephone and two local businesses have refused to serve me. But the most annoying incident occurred during the aforementioned Packwood visit, when an employee of BC, in a classically chickenshit manuever, threatened my life while engaging me in a conversation in a room full of people. We were standing a mere 15 feet away from Packwood at the time, so I was obliged to compromise my dignity by walking away from the fellow.

Corruption has become the issue in the Hells Canyon controversy, which is sad given the reality of a simple issue whereby Hells Canyon NRA — a place of incomparable beauty, and one recognized as such by Congress in 1975 when the NRA designation was granted — is in need of stronger protection, which could be adopted with little or no cost to the local timber economy.

Full preservation of this place is certainly in order regardless of economics. Yet BC has its eye on a subsidy of old growth Ponderosa Pine from the NRA which it wishes to cut while the pine market is high. After the pine is gone, and the sacred canyons of the Nez Perce Tribe are ravaged, BC will relocate its operation as it has done elsewhere. The masters of the "cut-and-run" technique have abandoned all morality.

Where We Are Now

S.1803 is currently "on hold." The renewed effort to push this bill must be strong. Lobbying of Senator Hatfield and other legislators for support of full protection of Hells Canyon is critical. Packwood should be encouraged to strengthen S.1803.

Three NRA timber sales are currently on the block, all of which are under administrative appeal: the Fish Lake Sale, in a high elevation spruce forest within the Lake Fork Roadless Area; the Skook Sale, in old growth ponderosa pine on the breaks of the Upper Imnaha River; and the Top Sale, which abuts the summit point of the "deepest gorge on the face of the Earth."

A growing number of individuals are looking into unconventional means of defending the Hells Canyon Ecosystem while the slow wheels of legislation turn, and while Forest Service corruption continues to rule the fate of this irreplacable wilderness.

Response to the recent EF! plea for letters to congresspersons has been tremendous. Oregon EF! thanks all those who have contributed to this lobbying effort. OEF! has been the chief lobbying force in the effort to preserve Hells Canyon, and the EF! proposal has received as much attention as the moderate position. Those who haven't written Senators Hatfield and Packwood should do so, and those who have might write again; thank Packwood for supporting protection of Hells Canyon, and ask him to strengthen his bill and push it through the Senate. Anyone interested in further participation should contact me at POB 605, Joseph, OR 97846.

Ric Bailey has been one of EF!'s key activists for several years. Background information on Hells Canyon can be found in the June 21, 1985, Earth First!.

Oregon Update

by Mary Beth Nearing and Brian Heath

Logging season is on us again in the Cathedral Forest — a land of giant trees from California to Alaska. Many groups are working to preserve the last 10% of that forest. The Cathedral Forest Action Group invites you to come to the Northwest this spring or summer and work with a group with whom you feel comfortable.

The Cathedral Forest Action Group is a group that recognizes the dignity of all living things. We act out that belief as follows:

The dignity of each person in CFAG is recognized by using the consensus process. Decisions are reached by talking until everyone agrees. Anyone has the ability to block a group decision. Consensus works best when people with similar goals and affinities work together: willingness to make personal sacrifices on individual decisions is necessary to maintain the group.

The dignity of people outside CFAG is recognized by following a nonviolent code which asks a) that respect be shown to all people including those with whom we disagree; and b) that property not be damaged. For us, that eliminates tree spiking and survey stake pulling — either individually or as a group.

The dignity of Earth is recognized by our daily efforts such as: a) staffing an office, answering the phone, writing press releases, putting up posters, fundraising, talking to people, researching issues; b) being at the old growth Sanctuary, cooking community meals, talking to visitors, watching the fire, communicating messages, digging a latrine; c) making footpaths for anyone to follow through one of the most magnificent forests on Earth; d) for some it involves being a part of the forest in a way that puts one in danger of being arrested and going to jail; for others it involves supporting those who will be arrested — directly, indirectly, or financially.

CFAG compiled the following wish list to state our greatest needs:

Human Power: Dedicated, responsible, self-sufficient folks to staff the action; do ground support; track arrestees through the system; do reconnaissance; report and photograph; staff tables; do research; and do maintenance tasks. We need more female energy.

Skills: Nonviolence, outdoor survival skills, MECHANICS, art/printing, and lawyers.

We need volunteer help with all of these things. If you have the time — a few hours, a week, year, or a day each week — and if you feel comfortable with the consensus process and the nonviolent code, please contact us: CFAG, 824 SW 10th, Corvallis, OR 97333 (503-754-9151). We need you. Earth needs you.

Brian and MB are two of Oregon's most experienced nonviolent eco-activists.

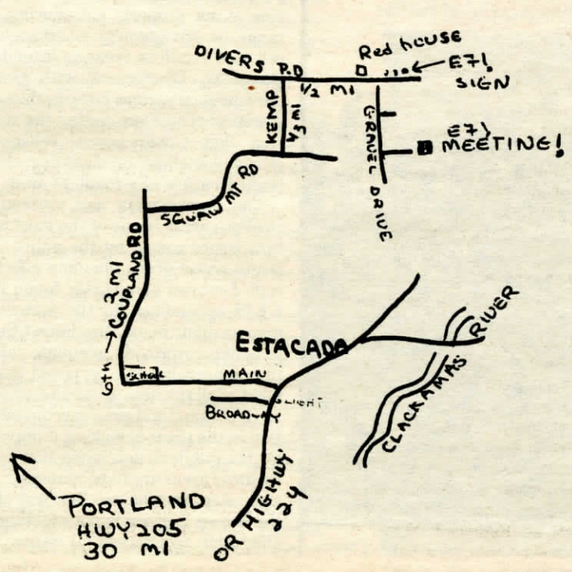
First week of May: UC Santa Cruz, CA; concert and meeting. Contact Cecelia Smith at 415-851-1578.

A Takilma, OR, meeting is planned for early May. We need help to set up meetings in Arcata, Berkeley, and elsewhere.

Round River Rendezvous, June 29-July 5, North Fork Big Lost River, White Cloud Mts., ID. I will lead an Old Growth/Endangered Ecosystems workshop.

If you can help set up a meeting in your area, either now or in the fall, let me know. You will need to find a place, publicize the event, and talk to interested people in your region about the idea of the proposal — you could copy this article — so they will come prepared to comment and to act. We will probably ask for donations at meetings. If your group has funds to help pay costs, that would help us.

Cecilia Ostrow is an early EF! activist and is renowned within the EF! movement for her beautiful singing and brave actions.



Fighting for the Future of the Tahoe

by Eric, Willow and Steve Beckwitt

In the midst of growing concern over deforestation of our planet, the US Forest Service plans massive clearcutting in the Northern Sierra Nevada mountains of California. The Forest Service released the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Tahoe National Forest for public comment on January 6, 1986. The draft plan is heavily biased toward timber production and sacrifices the scenic and biological qualities of the forest. If implemented the plan would destroy the Tahoe Forest as we know it. These are the critical issues:

*Eight of the nine roadless backcountry areas in the Tahoe will be roaded and clearcut.

*Six square miles of forest will be clearcut every year for the next 50 years. After 50 years, the only remaining natural forest will be in narrow strips along the Tahoe's scenic highways, the Granite Chief Wilderness, a few "special interest" and wildlife habitat areas.

*Sterile "plantations" of conifers will replace the natural forest. These plantations may be sprayed repeatedly with toxic herbicides.

*Hiking trails and backroads will lose their scenic qualities as clearcutting and logging roads become visible everywhere.

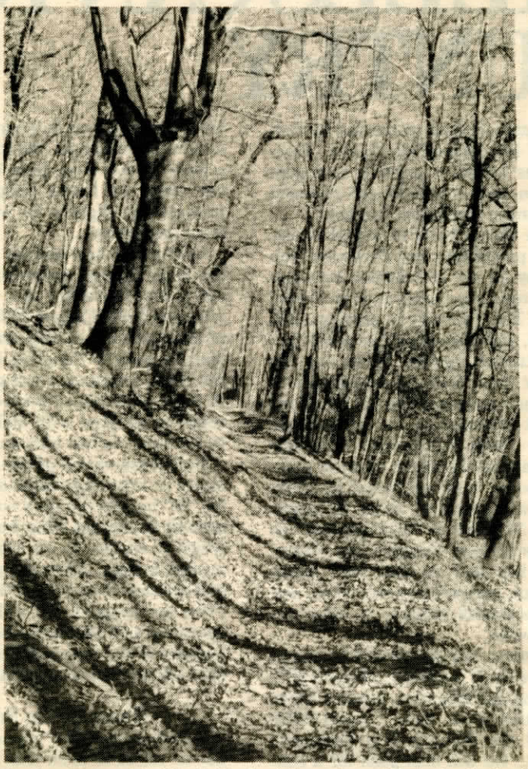
*Most of the remaining climax, old growth forest will be destroyed. Clearcutting will occur on erosion and landslide prone steep slopes.

*Large herds of cattle and sheep will continue to graze in the forest, reducing plant diversity and causing widespread erosion.

The Tahoe Forest is one of the ten most heavily used recreation Forests in the US — it is within four hours travel of eight million people. The recreational demands on the Forest are increasing rapidly. The draft Forest Plan manages the entire Forest, including the wild backcountry areas, primarily for clearcut timber production.

Over 160,000 acres of wild and roadless areas are hidden in the remote backcountry of the Tahoe Forest. Their steep slopes, climax forests and meadows provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Numerous trails wander through their cool, moist canyons and alpine meadows. These islands of wilderness are surrounded by a sea of roads, logging and other environmental disturbances. The peace will be shattered as logging roads slice into the last wild areas, including the North Fork of the American River, East and West Yuba, Castle Peak, North Fork of the Middle Fork American River, Duncan Canyon, Middle Yuba and Bald Mountain roadless areas. The plan calls for the construction and reconstruction of 40 miles of road every year for the next 50 years!

The roadless area forests are predominantly located on very steep slopes and at high elevations where clearcutting, as called for in the draft plan, will lead to environmental disaster. Roads will be constructed into these extremely steep canyons with serious potential for erosion and landslides. Roadless areas provide critical habitat for the sensitive and endangered plants and animals indigenous to old growth forests. No justification exists for cutting any more old growth in the Tahoe or any other National Forest. There is an abundance of quality second growth forest that can be managed to produce timber. Many of the old growth timber sales in remote roadless areas will not return enough income to cover the costs of new road construction.



Black oak forest in North Fork of American. Photo by Beckwitts.

Not all areas clearcut get reforested. On the Tahoe Forest there was "reforestation backlog" of over 10,000 acres in 1984. Recently, using new methods of "maintaining water quality," the Forest Service began clearcutting along the streams, claiming that the "litter layer" (often logging slash) is sufficient to protect the streamside environment.

East of the Sierran Crest in the Castle Peak roadless area, where the large eastside meadows begin, lie Independence Lake and Mt. Lola, some of the wildest backcountry in the Forest. One of the last genetically pure strains of the endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout lives in Independence Lake and spawns in a pristine section of Independence Creek, many miles away, in the lush meadows on Mt. Lola's lower slopes. Yet the draft plan has allocated the entire area to be developed as a commercial downhill ski area. The meadows would be paved and Mt. Lola bulldozed for ski runs and condominiums.

Claiming that wildlife habitat will be increased by "vegetative manipulation" and "habitat improvement" (mostly clearcutting), the draft plan authorizes the quiet extirpation of the spotted owl and other sensitive plants and animals, especially those dependent upon old growth or climax forest habitat. Cattle and sheep will graze in the "transitory range" created by clearcutting and continue to reduce water quality while destroying the alpine meadows at the taxpayers' expense.

In summary, the overall direction of this plan is simple enough, "produce as much wood fiber (pulp) as possible, with the minimal environmental constraints." The planned length of time between harvests, rotation length, has been shortened to 50 years in the low elevation mixed conifer forest. The FS can cite no evidence that these practices are sustainable in the long run.

The Beckwitts are a family living an ecological lifestyle and fighting to protect the land in Northern California.

What you can do!

The Forest Service is legally required to accept public input into this plan. We need your letters! Please support your comments with clear reasons. Send your letters to: Geri B. Larson, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, Hwy. 49 & Coyote St, Nevada City, CA 95959. Here are some suggested comments:

***Demand that no road-building, logging or developments occur within roadless areas.**

***Oppose clearcutting and herbicide use.**

***Demand that the remaining virgin or old-growth forest be protected.**

***Prohibit development of Mt. Lola and demand that the area be preserved as critical habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout.**

***Demand that no grazing be allowed in the Granite Chief Wilderness or the roadless alpine areas — encourage the phasing out of all domestic livestock grazing on the entire Tahoe National Forest.**

***Prohibit roadbuilding and logging of the steep fragile canyons of the rivers and streams.**

***Prohibit further vehicular use of the jeep track that borders the Lake Basin area on the crest, recognize that The Lakes Basin area of the Tahoe and the East Yuba roadless area on the Plumas is one contiguous roadless area, and be preserved as such.**

***Prohibit any intrusions to any RARE II area, including those that were not designated as wilderness in the '84 CA Wilderness Bill.**

***Prohibit the construction or upgrading of roads anywhere on the Forest.**

***Prohibit any and all deficit timber sales on the Forest.**

***Prohibit trapping and predator control anywhere on the Forest.**

***Withdraw the entire Forest from entry under the mining laws.**

To maximize your political impact, send copies of your letters to: Zane Smith, Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, Forest Service, 630 Sansome St., S.F., CA 94111; Senator Alan Cranston, US Senate, Wash., DC 20510; Senator Pete Wilson (same); Representative Gene Chappie, US House of Representatives, Wash., DC 20515; Representative Norman Shumway (same). For more information (a free 12 page newspaper) about how to help save the Tahoe contact: Eric, Willow and Steve Beckwitt, Forest Issues Task Force, Sierra Nevada Group, Sierra Club, POB 530, North San Juan, CA 95960 (916-292-3676).

Clearcutting near Rock Creek.

Freddies Twisting "Release"

by Steven L. Evans

A letter to Zane Smith, Regional Forester, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111

It has become apparent that the US Forest Service is misinterpreting Congressionally approved "release" language in the California Wilderness Act. Our review of draft land management plans for the Cleveland, Angeles, Stanislaus and Sequoia National Forests indicates that the Forest Service is not properly considering a full range of management alternatives for released roadless areas as intended by Congress. Discussions with planning personnel on various Forests shows that planning teams are under the impression that Congressional release language somehow de-classifies the unroaded nature of a roadless area.

The management and protection of roadless areas is one of the most important issues raised by the public in the issues phase of the planning effort. Except for brief summaries found in the DEIS appendices for the various land management plans, the Forest Service is failing to provide adequate information concerning the proposed management of all roadless areas on each forest. Lack of maps and area specific information in the plans is making it impossible for the public to determine how various roadless areas are to be managed under each plan alternative. Because of this, the Forest Service is not meeting their obligation to address all issues raised by the public. Providing this information should not be affected by Congressional release language.

We refer you to the Senate committee report on the California Wilderness Act. While the bill and the commmittee report specifically prohibits further wilderness study for released roadless areas during the current planning cycle, the report also requires that released areas be considered for the full range of management alternatives in the plan, including administrative protection of an area's roadless resources. We also need to point out that further wilderness consideration of released roadless areas is entirely at the discretion of the Forest Service.

Current and future draft land management plans should be revised in order to be in compliance with the intent of Congress. In regards to the Stanislaus and Sequoia plans, the public should be provided with area specific information and maps indicating how all roadless areas will be managed under each alternative. The plans should also be revised to provide an adequate range of alternatives in terms of roadless area protection and management. Otherwise, we believe that the plans will not withstand Congressional scrutiny or legal review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven L. Evans, President

California Wilderness Coalition, 2655 Portage Bay Ave., Suite 3, Davis, CA 95616 (916) 758-0830

Hierarchy and Grassroots Collide in Sierra Club

by Diogenes

Recent articles in Sierra Club chapter newsletters have lamented that the club's board of directors has had to spend several thousand dollars defending itself against a court challenge connected with a "group calling itself the Nuclear Concerns Coalition of Sierra Club Activists"; a recent letter from the directors of Friends of the Earth to its members contained a conspicuous footnote, saying that Dave Brower has "sued the Sierra Club to challenge its Board decisions."

Earth First! decided not to print in its Brigid issue an account of recent events within the Sierra Club, in the thought that a rift within the Club would best be healed without publicity. We now feel that there has been so much attention drawn to one side of the conflict that our readers, many of whom are members of Sierra Club and FOE, should know the facts.

The allusions to a suit have their roots in a campaign conducted by the Club's board to kill a drive from the grassroots to make ending the arms race/preventing nuclear war one of the Club's top issues for action. The weapons issue came in eighth in overall voting for priorities at the group, chapter, and regional conservation committee levels. However, the board subsequently failed to make it one of the Club's eight biennial priorities.

Activists then circulated a petition requesting the board to make the peace issue a priority. By the Club's by-laws, the 2000 signatures collected were more than enough to force the board either to do so or to put the question to a vote of the full membership. The board, however, tried to sidestep. At its November meeting it made the issue a priority, but denied it Club funds. The petitioners cried "foul": the club has never had an unfunded priority. There then began a complex series of negotiations between the board and peace activists.

The coalition of peace activists had been formed in October when 30 activists met — with the tacit consent of Michele Perrault, Club president — to consider how the Club could implement peace work. It has not been clear to what extent the negotiators represent the coalition as a whole. Failure to consult fully among themselves has been a mistake of the peace activists, as has been the use of the Sierra Club name without first ascertaining that all those listed on a flyer as belonging to the coalition were dues-paying Club members. However, the board has made more serious mistakes.

The board in November reluctantly agreed to put the issue of funding the new priority to the membership, but voted 14-1, with Brower in the minority, to recommend a "no" vote. Disagreements between the board and petitioners then arose over how to handle the balloting. One of these took the form of a court challenge by three board candidates, including Brower. The challenge came over an announcement to supporters of the peace issue that candidates for the board cannot sign an official statement "pro" or "con" a resolution to be voted on by the membership. The challenge was made on the basis of freedom of speech and the timing of the notification. The board convinced the court to deny a temporary restraining order, by arguing that the rule, though unwritten, had been followed in the Club for ten years. The challengers settled out of court.

Subsequently they learned that two current board members had signed ballot measures when they were candidates, Richard Cellarius in 1981 and Phil Berry in 1978. Before Berry admitted his mistake, his wife, the president of the Club, sent out a mailing informing club leaders throughout the country of the suit. The challengers had chosen, in the interest of club unity, not to publicize the case.

Then the board attacked, with the wording of the "con" statement on the ballot resolution to be published in *Sierra* and all chapter newsletters. While the petitioners' "pro" statements discussed only the issue of whether or not ending the arms race should be funded, the "con" statements included the board majority's view of supporters of the peace petition. The board stated that "At least one of the [ligigants] is involved in a law suit against Friends of the Earth . . . Some of that organization's leaders fear for FOE's future." The board was trying to equate a vote against the resolution with a vote for the Sierra Club, while also taking an unmerited jab at Brower.

When the board refused to alter its "con" statement, the petitioners withdrew the ballot resolution. In return, the board made concessions, including a promise to recall the "con" statement, which had already been sent to all chapter chairs and newsletter editors; the integration of coalition activists into Club work on peace; and a memo from the Club president, with wording approved by the petitioners, to all signers of the original petition.

At this writing the memo has not been sent, the truce is breaking down, and the board is not meeting its commitments. The board has undermined cooperation. The wording for the memo proposed by Perrault does not clear up the previous statements made by her about the peace activists.

Where does all this leave the Sierra Club? The issue of preventing nuclear war/ending the arms race is an obvious casuality. Not only have Club members been denied the opportunity to vote on whether they want to fund the issue, but the turmoil within the Club is bound to make the issue unpalatable to some members. Another causuality is a fair election for the board. Candidates supporting the petition feel that they have been vilified by "information" circulated by the board. The idea that the Club is a democratic organization in which issues move up to the national level from the grassroots has been dealt a severe blow. The peace activists worked through legitimate channels, the grassroots priority selection process and the petition, yet were blocked.

The Club turmoil is at present more limited in scope than is the disorder in FOE on which we reported in our Yule issue. However, the attacks on Brower from the majority of the boards of both organizations suggest that there is similarity between the problems in the two organizations. Is there a move from the majority of the board in each to consolidate and defend a corporate type of decision making?

The Club can recover its equilibrium without going through the trauma being suffered by FOE, but to do so it must take steps to correct a basic internal weakness revealed by the current dispute. The Club lacks procedures for dealing with disagreement between the board and members. In the words of one of the peace activists, the club needs "to reform its By-Laws to build in formal mechanisms for conflict resolution between members and the BOD."

Earth First!ers who are members of the Club should send the board this message. Tell the board that an overly centralized, corporate type of decision-making process is intolerable; and ask them to cooperate in actual fact with members who are peace activists. These activists should be helped to work within the club, not driven out of it.

Diogenes is a long-time Club activist and EF!er who bemoans the Club's excessive conservatism but believes the Club has a crucial role to play in the ecology movement.

Ed. note: After completing this article, Diogenes heard that the Club's board has decided to issue its villifying con statements, thereby making public their distorted view of Brower and the peace activists.

In addition, David Brower, the most distiguished living Sierra Club member, was not renominated by the Club's official nominating committee for re-election to his seat on the Sierra Club National Board of Directors. Brower is on the ballot, however, after successfully submitting petitions with the required number of signatures.

Recently, *Grassroots Sierra* published an interview with Sierra Club Executive Director Doug Wheeler which reinforces our conviction that the Club has fallen prey to professionalism and moderation. The following are excerpts from this interview:

Raby: How long have you been a member of the Sierra Club?

Wheeler: I have not been a member of the Sierra Club until recently, largely because I had focused my efforts first in government, and wanted to avoid any appearance of a conflict . . . . As soon as it became a possibility that I might be considered as a candidate for this job, I joined the Club to find out just what it was doing from the perspective of someone coming in as a new member.

Raby: Can you please explain for our members why you voted for Ronald Reagan?

Wheeler: I am a registered Republican. I had been serving as a member of the D.C. Republican Central Committee and I felt duty bound to support the Party's choice for the 1984 election.

Raby: Many members have expressed concern regarding the large salary [over $100,000 a year] you are receiving while the Club often seems not to have enough money for Club actions at national, chapter and group levels. How can you speak to the concerns of these members?

Wheeler: The Board made a decision that this expenditure was a priority in terms of achieving the Club's objectives. I believe very strongly that we must pay well to attract career professionals in conservation and we've got to make the Sierra Club the best possible place for them to work if we want to retain our prominence in this field.

Taxes & Forest Destruction

by Wendell Wood

The US House of Representatives recently passed a tax reform package of great interest to conservationists. The Oregon Natural Resources Council has long sought the removal of special tax treatments for the timber industry which have virtually institutionalized the practice of clearcutting on both private and public forestlands.

In keeping with the public's increasing desire to preserve and perpetuate forests older than the nation itself, laws are needed that will encourage selective and sensitive timber harvest methods with less severe impacts on wildlife and fisheries habitat, soils, watershed stability, ecosystem diversity and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Besides maintaining a tradition of clearcutting (because it has always been done that way), the current tax structure makes it almost impossible to conduct less intrusive timber practices even if corporations were to wish to adopt such techniques. Current research demonstrates the critical importance of retaining older trees, large down logs and dead wood in the forest (totally contrary to most "modern" timber management regimes). Among other benefits, this protects habitats for small animals intricately involved in the trafficking of fungal spores essential to life-sustaining mycorhizal (fungus-root) interrelationships. Research shows that fungi are vital for tree root innoculation to assure the forest's productivity. But even with new information gained from this research, change will not occur as long as the federal tax code reinforces abusive practices of the past (and present).

The House-passed tax reform bill would:

1. Prevent treatment of the sale of timber as a capital gain (now taxed at a lower rate). Tax breaks, however, would still be provided to small woodlot owners and corporations whose holdings are under 50,000 acres.
2. Prevent treatment of the cost of growing trees as an annual expense.
3. End tax credits and annual write-offs for reforestation techniques associated with (and necessitated by) clearcutting.

These special tax advantages far exceed what the timber industry "made" from enactment of the 1984 timber contract ("bail-out") legislation, which released industry from certain contracts overbid in the speculative timber market of the 1970s. A lobbyist for Weyerhauser estimates these subsidies are worth up to $600 million a year, which otherwise the industry would have to pay in taxes.

While the industry claims these subsidies are necessary for reforestation on private lands, it is in fact these timber subsidies that not only have led to many of the reforestation problems on poor private lands, but also continue to promote bad timber practices on public lands that can never grow timber profitably.

Almost all the accelerating timber harvest levels on our National Forests and Bureau of Land Management forest lands are a result of Congressional appropriations that are in themselves tax subsidies for various "voodoo" forest practices, including spraying of herbicides — which, according to industrial interests, enables the forests to grow faster than the previous ones. Therefore, this logic maintains, the forest "improves" with fast cutting. A true economic analysis is seldom conducted.

For years conservationists have been fighting the technological fixes which attempt to "repair" the forest after management damage. Now, wise conservation suggests support for those portions of the House's timber tax reform package (as passed) which remove many destructive tax incentives. Clearcutting will not be as economically attractive if corporations are asked to pay the true costs of reforestation, and cannot collect multiple tax credits for intensive forestry techniques necessitated by catastrophic methods of "timber management."

The Pacific Northwest is currently undergoing the transition to a second growth economy. A more diverse economic structure will place more emphasis on sport and commercial fisheries, tourism, outdoor recreation, agriculture, high technology and communication, and timber harvesting at a sustainable (necessarily lower) level. In order to achieve a reliable and stable source of timber, greater emphasis

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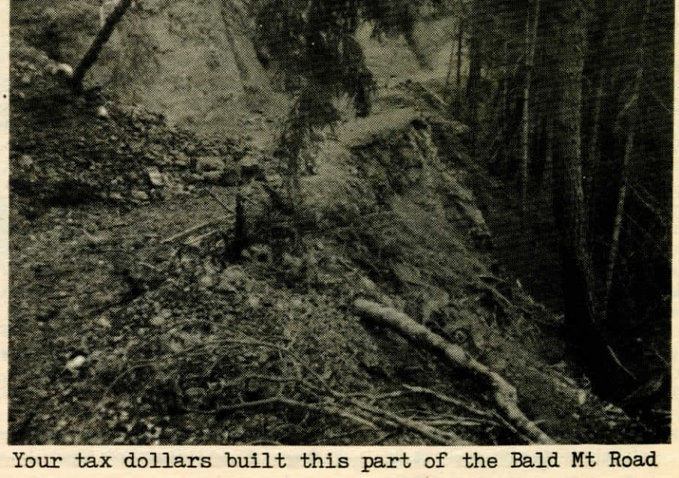


Your tax dollars built this part of the Bald Mt Road

'Way Down Upon the Suwannee River

by George Griffin

Florida as a whole is an ecological disaster. Right now there's a lot of fixing up going on and the general climate is pro-environment. But a lot of development is going on also.

The part of Florida known as the "Big Bend" or "Topaz Coast" — where the state starts its swing its swing westward — has been less developed than other parts of the state. Here the Gulf of Mexico is marshy and full of stingrays and sharks. Development of the normal Florida variety has been slow, but timbering has not been slow; some counties here have lost 90% of their native oaks to pines. As timbering plays out, the wild lands are subdivided. The closer the land is to the Suwannee River the more desirable it is. The Suwannee, which flows 265 miles from Georgia's Okefenokee to the Gulf, is wild and needs protection. Development has been coming fast. Each Suwannee flood carries off more houses and sea walls - many of them illegal. Yet more than before remain.

When the Suwannee River Authority (SRA) proposed dredging one of the Suwannee's natural passes at the river's mouth, our independent Audubon group opposed the plan on the grounds that it is habitat for an endangered species, the manatee. The Suwannee already has artificial channels at Wadley Pass and Salt Creek serving marinas of the area, yet local businesses supported the third channel.

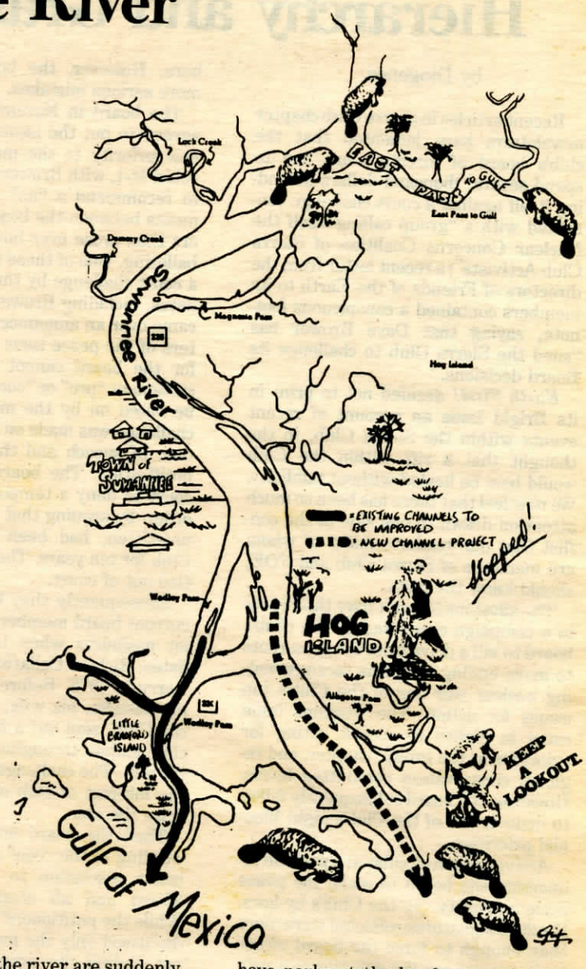
The sea grass Ruppia grows abundantly around the natural channel of Alligator Pass where the new dredging was proposed. Ruppia is a favorite food of manatees. We documented the presence of manatees in Alligator Pass, yet the SRA persisted with its plans to dredge. Then, an important regional newspaper, the *Gainesville Sun*, editorialized in favor of the manatees. Next, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) advised the Army Corps of Engineers that the dredging of Alligator Pass could lead to the extinction of the Florida manatee. The Big Bend population of manatees is the only herd gaining in numbers. The east coast population is barely holding its own. Today there are perhaps 1200 manatees in Florida waters. One extreme cold spell on the Atlantic could reduce the number by half. But the major threat to manatees is the works of man — usually in the form of a motor propeller.

Most Florida manatees carry prop scars. Many manatees do not survive to show their wounds. Sometimes speeding boats separate mother and child. When this happens, the young die. The Alligator Pass dredging would encourage bigger boats in the Suwannee savannah and the inevitable boat-manatee collisions. Manatees use the Suwannee for breeding and forage year-round, but there are more here in summer than in winter. The Suwannee grows aquatic plants of such quality that commercial collectors gather plants here and ship them to pet shops world wide. Manatees like the plants, especially Hydrilla and Cabomba, both of which sometimes grow so thickly a boat can't get through the mats. Manatees control these plants but there aren't enough manatees, so the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has air boats fitted with spraying equipment and herbicides. Unfortunately, we lack information on the effects of these poisons on the plants or the animals which eat the plants.

In 1985 the Corps of Engineers did not issue a permit and Alligator was not dredged, but SRA included the dredging in its 1986 program. Recently, Audubon and Sierra Club have started making noises. Also, FWS wondered if the Corps would override a jeopardy opinion and issue a permit for SRA's plans. Then, DNR, holding funds for the project, called a halt on plans.

At the moment, it appears that Alligator Pass will not be dredged. But somehow the SRA managed to install channel markers. The effect of these markers will be to attract boaters into the pass. Manatees will be threatened by the increased boat traffic. So, it's not a clean win for the environment. We hope to show that the markers are illegal and must be removed.

Meanwhile, toward the top of the river we have Occidental Chemical Company mining phosphate near the Suwannee's shores and dumping effluents into its tributaries. And we have real estate schemes at every bend in the river. The Suwannee River Water Mangement District (SRWMD, pronounced "Swearmud") has responsibility for regulating development on the Suwannee and it is trying to keep septic run-off to a minimum while enforcing set-back and elevations guidelines for new construction that require buildings to be above the 100-year level. The Suwannee is unencumbered by any functional dams and when it floods it usually does it up big.



Lots a mile from the river are suddenly waterfront. But the real devastation comes as the new real estate owners cut the forest. We still have live oaks that are 300 to 400 years old, gorgeous laural oaks, huge magnolias and even ancient pines that the timber people somehow missed. Around here a forest where one type of tree is plainly ahead of all the others is called a "hammock." The term comes from an Indian word meaning "tree island." Near the Suwannee there are many oak hammocks and palm hammocks. As real estate progresses, the hammocks become hard to find.

The state government has made efforts to preserve parts of the Suwannee. We have the 54,000 acre Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge at the river's mouth. The Feds and Georgia have parks at the headwaters. Swearmud has an acquisition program, and has purchased "Big Shoals" — the Suwannee's biggest stretch of white water. Governor Bob Graham has a Suwannee focus program . . . .

We who live here in Florida's Big Bend are well aware of how "good" we have it compared to most of Florida. We are sad, however, in the certainty of what lies ahead.

George Griffin can be contacted in care of Suwannee Audubon Society (c/o POB 6, Old Town, FL 32680) for those interested in working to preserve the Suwannee.

TAXES (Cont)

must be placed on small woodlots and other private lands which can be managed sensitively. The tax code must be changed to remove irresistible incentives for massive timber liquidations by the boom-and-bust clearcut industry, which was never really sustainable.

The timber industry is counting on Oregon Senator Bob Packwood, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, to modify the House-passed bill with their "wish list." President Reagan has expressed support for timber tax reform, but has promised to veto the final legislation if some provisions opposed by big business are not significantly changed in the Senate. (The tax reform bill, including parts effecting the timber industry, began as a Reagan bill. Rest assured, he pushed this for all the wrong reasons. Nevertheless, ironically, Reagan's policies may hurt this industry which strongly supported him.) The bill, having passed the House and gone to the Senate, has lost its identity as a Reagan bill. The Democratic controlled House took tax reform for what the name really says, and decided to stick it to the rich. The House would have defeated the bill (after it got out of committee) were it not for Reagan promising Republicans in the House that he would veto it if the bill was not sufficiently modified in the Senate. Packwood says that the timber tax issue could be settled this spring, but could drag on until August. The Gramm/Rudman bill helps us, as Congress is looking for ways to cut the budget and Reagan is trying to raise taxes by eliminating tax deductions.

As always, the timber industry charges that changes in the timber tax laws will cause greater unemployment. In reality, our timber resources at any one time, are finite — though we have treated them otherwise. Existing jobs still dependent on mining the remaining old growth forests will continue to decline regardless. Concern for the potential loss of these jobs must be balanced with protection of many existing and potential jobs — in fishing, tourism, etc. — which are threatened by continued over-cutting of forests. A more carefully managed forest will eventually provide new jobs in the timber industry itself. Furthermore, those who wish to maintain current subsidies fail to comprehend the necessity for transition now, to adopt better forest practices and assure that the harvest rate for second growth forests is sustainable in the future.

It is important that timber industry scare tactics not dissuade us from an opportunity to salvage forest policy in this country. Removing huge capital gains and Congressional appropriation subsidies during times of economic deficits can only help stabilize the Northwest economy and way of life.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your US senators (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510), particularly senators on the Senate Finance Committee, asking them to support the timber tax reform measures. Tell liberal senators that voting for the timber tax portions of the bill is a vote for conservation, and is not a vote against reforestation, as the industry claims. Also, write to The Wilderness Society and Sierra Club and lobby them to lobby Congress to support eliminating the timber industry's tax breaks. This is something the national groups are reluctant to do.

Wendell Wood is Vice President of the Oregon Natural Resources Council.

'Way Up Upon The Snoqualmie

by Geni P. Hawkins

The North Fork of the Snoqualmie River in western Washington state runs through some of the most beautiful forested canyons left undeveloped in the Northwest. For many of us, it is a sacred place where we fish for rainbow and cutthroat and brown trout, for steelhead and bass; and watch dippers and harlequin ducks, hawks and owls and wrens.

The trip to the river is not a pleasant drive, involving many miles of dusty logging roads through Weyerhaeuser clearcuts. After the drive, one must hike through a clearcut to reach the forest. The clearcut is hot, dusty, filled with thorns and brambles and brush, not to mention garbage and shotgun shells. This part of the hike brings out the Weyerhaeuser-hater in us all. When one finally reaches the forest, the scene changes radically, as the forest is usually uninhabited by human critters, but is full of birdsong, and deer, and little tree-dwelling critters. The forest, on a hot day, is often 10-20 degrees cooler than the surrounding clearcut.

The city of Bellevue is a wealthy Yuppie paradise on the shores of Lake Washington, across the lake from Seattle. Bellevue uses the North Fork of the Snoqualmie as a watershed, and recently proposed building a dam on the river for electricity production. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), for once, had a brief period of rationality, as the license application for the dam has been rejected outright, instead of being delayed 60 to 90 days to allow time to remedy deficiencies in the application. According to local environmentalists, the application had more than 67 problems caught by FERC alone.

Bellevue apparently, in the arrogance common to the wealthy and powerful, believed their application would be approved no matter how sloppily done. The project is not dead, in spite of the rejection. There are many legislators anxious to win favor among the influence-wielders of that community, and the city intends to appeal the FERC decision. Bellevue has shown, by drawing up as ill-considered a document as they presented to FERC, that the environmental impacts of a dam on the sacred grounds of the North Fork matter not a tinker's damn to them. Support is needed from all friends of whitewater and scenic rivers to prevent the destruction of this river.

Should we lapse, and allow the construction of this dam to begin, the only recourse for those of us to whom this is a holy place will lie in drastic measures. Dam construction can be made economically unfeasible by those of us who know the area well, and are not afraid to resort to guerrilla tactics. We hope FERC does not back down in usual wimpy fashion from their brave, if unusual stand. The North Fork must not be allowed to die.

Geni Hawkins has been an EF!er for a year, after having belonged to many other environmental groups and having "given them up in disgust at their conciliatory and increasingly conservative policies."

Pipeline Through Texas

by Coyote

The greatest grassroots environmental issue in Texas history is stirring tensions from El Paso to Freeport. And it promises to draw environmnentalists' ire for miles to the West: at least two 1700-mile pipelines are proposed to carry over one million barrels of crude oil daily from California to refineries on the Gulf Coast of Texas. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, through its subsidiary, All-American Pipeline Company, plans to pump 450,000 barrels per day of heated, highly pressurized, high sulfur oil from a tank farm at Emidio near Santa Barbara, to Texas. A company known as Pacific Texas Pipeline Project plans to construct a 900,000 barrel per day crude pipe to carry oil from the Port of Los Angeles following roughly the route of the All-American pipe, to transfer terminals at Midland, Texas. The oil to be pumped through these pipes would come from California's Outer Continental Shelf and Alaska's North Slope (via the Alyeska Pipeline). Ranchers in Texas are rising up to defend their land. Rumors abound that dynamite is selling well in this Texas Hill Country.

Unbeknownst to Texas EF!, the BLM issued a Final EIS for the All-American project in January 1985. The pipeline was approved and a lease granted for thousands of acres of BLM lands over which this CRUDE monstrosity would pass. Not until the first week of November, when news of surveying activity on private lands became front page news in local papers, was the public made aware of the plans of the oil industry to build an effectual extension of the Alaska Pipeline through Texas. Texas EF! dug up information on the pipeline: It would cross the Condor Conservation Area; pass through BLM WSAs and roadless areas in California, Arizona and New Mexico; run within two miles of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas; and cross a number of large, flood-prone rivers and streams, including the Colorado (CA/AZ) and the Pedernales (TX). Construction is underway or has been completed along much of the route, including along I-10 in New Mexico, in California's Mojave Desert and near McCamey in West Texas. Much of the Fish & Wildlife Service-designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise has been crossed. The vulnerable portion passing under the Colorado River has recently been completed. (Due to revisions in plans, the pipeline will not cross a Further Planning Area in the Los Padres National Forest nor the Kofa Wildlife Refuge, as we suggested it would in our last issue.) The Pacific Texas, or "PacTex," project is now undergoing preparation of a Final EIS. The public comment period is officially closed, although comments received will be made part of the permanent file on the project. PacTex would cross many of the same environmentally sensitive areas that All-American would.

A little background is useful to understand the situation: Interior secretary Donald Hodel is taking up James Watt's battle against the Outer Continental Shelf. Watt leased the OCS in 1981, but a bipartisan agreement among members of the California Congressional delegation imposed a moratorium on development of the leases. In November, a Congressional committee voted to end the moratorium, over objections of California Congresspersons. Hodel then announced that development would proceed "without delay." Fullscale production is now expected to begin within 18 months.

The worldwide drop in demand for petroleum is causing consternation among oil industry executives as prices and profits plummet. Texas oil refineries and petrochemical plants are operating far below capacity. Markets for North Slope Alaskan Crude are going soft. Federal law requires producers to refine Alaskan oil in US refineries; there is little refining capability for this crude on the West Coast, so the solution is to ship Alaskan crude to Texas, where it can be refined in existing refineries. The only hitch: it must be moved across 1700 miles of desert, mountains and rivers; or else it must be transported by tanker to the Panama Canal, transshipped to the Carribbean Sea, then carried by tanker back to the States. Exxon Corporation is opposed to the pipeline because, it says, tanker transport is environmentallly safer than transport by pipeline.

The big issue in Texas is water: The Edwards and Glen Rose Aquifers in Central Texas, near Austin, are located in limestone areas with rapid population growth rates. Many people depend on these "sole-source" drinking water aquifers. The pipeline would be laid into a blasted trench, three to eight feet deep, then covered with fill. Already one construction quality control supervisor quit his job because of irregularities in the pipe. Travis County has filed suit to stop the company from proceeding with construction, but it is uncertain whether the county will be successful since the company is imbued by Texas law with the power of eminent domain. Ranchers in this area are incensed. Direct action, violent and nonviolent, has been sworn against the Goodyear/All-American Pipeline to stop the project.

Due to the inadequacy of the EIS for the All-American pipe, Texas Representative Jake Pickle has asked BLM director Bob Burford for a new EIS. The BLM should require a new EIS since the original EIS only covers the pipeline as far as McCamey in West Texas yet the pipe will go all the way to the Gulf. Evidence suggests that the BLM knew the pipe would go to the Gulf before they did the EIS. The BLM is avoiding a new EIS on the grounds that the pipe beyond McCamey will not cross BLM land. The BLM is calling this portion of the pipe a separate intrastate pipeline.

Clearly, the EIS was presented to the public in an insidious way. The BLM permitted All-American, and is permitting PacTex, to declare that the pipeline will end in West Texas, and that the oil is to be shipped through existing pipelines to the Gulf from there. By doing this, the companies may avoid doing environmental studies on the effects of building high volume pipelines across sole-source drinking water aquifers. They also expected to avoid the problem of arousing the ire of environmentally-conscious people in the Austin area. The BLM and their partners, the oil companies, were not prepared for the reaction they are receiving: demonstrations at Goodyear Service Centers; a rally against the pipeline at Southwest Texas State University, where the Blimp was tarred-and-feathered; an EF! Austin public meeting at which State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos told the crowd that he was "happy to be in full support of Earth First!" in opposing the pipeline, and the first public hearing the Texas Railroad Commission ever held, where over two hundred protesters attended, mostly elderly people, some wearing Silent Agitators. Yet surveying continues . . . .

You can help stop this pipeline, especially if you live in California, Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas. Write your Representatives in Congress saying that the BLM's EIS is inadequate for the All-American Pipeline, i.e., that the BLM allowed deliberate "segmenting" of the project so that the company would get an operating permit from the government without delay. Ask for a copy of the EIS (both Draft and Final) for the Celeron-All-American Pipeline (Celeron is a Getty Oil subsididary which is building the California portion of the project; EF!ers with Getty in their area may want to protest to Getty) and a copy of the PacTex EIS. Address inquiries to: Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Also write to BLM Director Bob Burford, BLM, Washington, DC 20240 and demand that he reverse his decision to allow pipeline construction to proceed without ordering full environmental study, as required under NEPA, of the segment of the project between McCamey and Freeport, TX.

We are organizing demonstrations in Texas, and would like to coordinate a series of demonstrations that would be held in towns all along the pipeline. Contact EF! Austin for ideas and planning at: POB 7292, University Station, Austin, TX 78713. Boycott Goodyear and Getty products!

UTAH: BLM Wilderness

by Juniper Berry

Forty percent of Utah's land is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This is Colorado Plateau country — high mesas, deep canyons, weathered sandstone, seeps and streams. BLM also administers desert valleys and mountain ranges characteristic of Great Basin topography. Remnants of Anasazi culture abound throughout the state.

The 1976 Federal Land Management Policy Act required BLM to analyze its land for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System. By 1979, BLM had inventoried all 22 million acres under its jurisdiction in Utah. Any land not identified as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) at this time was, presumably, lost to the Wilderness System for all time.

Conservation groups thought important areas had been overlooked, and were incensed when then-Secretary of Interior James Watt dropped all parcels smaller than 5000 acres. Conservationists initiated appeals through bureaucratic channels and in the courts. Eventually, many areas in question were returned to WSA status.

BLM finally studied 15% of its Utah holdings (3,231,327 acres) as 82 separate WSAs. In February, 1986, BLM published its Statewide Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This DEIS recommends 1,892,402 acres (all or parts of 58 WSAs) as Wilderness. The DEIS is contained in seven hefty volumes. It does not explain why entire WSAs, and portions of WSAs, have been eliminated. BLM will point to absences of significant wilderness qualities. BLM may also point to its unique "Scenic Quality" rating system, whereby it has determined whether a given place is unusual, usual, or downright ugly. Many areas which merit Wilderness protection have been dropped because of conflicts with potential development.

The DEIS comment period lasts until June 15. There will be 16 public hearings during one week in May, mostly in small rural towns where sentiment strongly opposes Wilderness. Next, BLM will send a final EIS to the Secretary of the Interior, who must make his recommendation to the President by October, 1991; within two more years, the President will make a recommendation to Congress, which has final authority to release or designate Wilderness. In the meantime, WSAs are supposed to be managed so as not to degrade their Wilderness value.

It is crucial that citizens from every state provide written comment, or speak at public hearings. Let BLM know that you will not compromise. Read the DEIS well, for BLM can ignore any criticisms not specific to the facts of the DEIS.

Was your favorite WSA recommended for return to multiple use, or a corner of it lopped off when BLM recommended "partial wilderness?" Are there discrepancies between new WSA maps, and the original WSA boundary maps? Why has BLM "studied" only three million acres, when so much more of Utah is *de facto* wilderness of the finest kind? Is BLM protecting WSAs against vandalism, road-building, mineral exploration, or water development?

Send requests for DEIS, and written comment by June 15 to: Wilderness Studies (U-933), BLM, Utah State Office, 324 South State St., Suite 301, SLC, UT 84111-2303. For further info, contact: Dr. Gregory Thayn, EIS Team Leader, 801-524-3135.

Public Hearing Schedule for DEIS (all hearings at 7 PM):
May 7, 7 PM, Vernal, BLM, 170 S 500 E
May 7, Provo, Courtroom 310, Utah County Bldg., 51 S Univ. Ave.
May 7, Escalante, Highschool lunch room, 70 N 1st West
May 7, Monticello, Monticello Highschool Auditorium, 164 S 200 W
May 8, Tooele, 3rd Floor, County Court 47 S Main
May 8, Kanab, Kane County Courthouse, 70 N Main
May 8, Moab, Grand Co. Community Center, Old Legion Bldg., 500 E 100 N
May 13, Ogden, Roland Perry Choral Room, Browning Performing Arts Center, Weber State, 3750 Harrison
May 13, Cedar City, BLM, 1579 N Main
May 13, Loa, Community Center, one block W of Courthouse
May 13, Price, Carbon County Courthouse, 200 E Main
May 14, Logan, Mountain Fuel Auditorium, 45 E 200 N
May 14, St. George, County Admin. Bldg., 197 E Tabernacle
May 14, Delta, Delta Highschool Auditorium, 50 S 300 N
May 14, Castle Dale, Emery County Courthouse
May 15, 2 PM and 7 PM, Salt Lake City, Suite E, Salt Palace, 100 South West Temple

Juniper Berry is a leading ecologist and editor of a fine women's periodical, who chooses to remain anonymous.

The Earth First! Utah BLM wilderness proposal was in the Mabon 1985 issue and will be run again in the May 1, 1986 issue.

Over 100 Earth First!ers and others opposed mountain lion sport hunting at a March 7 California Dept. of Game & Fish hearing in Sacramento. Photo by David Cross.

The Earth First! Directory

The Earth First! Directory lists the contact points for the international Earth First! movement. It is divided into three sections: 1) National EF! offices in the United States, and international contacts; 2) Active EF! Chapters or Groups; and 3) Contact persons where there is as yet no active EF! group. If you are interested in becoming active with the Earth First! movement, contact the folks listed for your area. If no one is listed for your area and you would like to be listed as an Earth First! contact, get in touch with our local group co-ordinator, Bob Kaspar, POB 37, Glen Haven, WI 53810 (608)794-2373, to be listed.

Contacts listed here should check their listing for accuracy and make any corrections to Bob Kaspar. If your phone number is not listed here, please send it to Bob.

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal is an independent entity within the international Earth First! movement, and is not the newsletter of the Earth First! movement. It does, however, provide a forum for Earth First!ers around the world. This directory is provided as a service to independent EF! groups.

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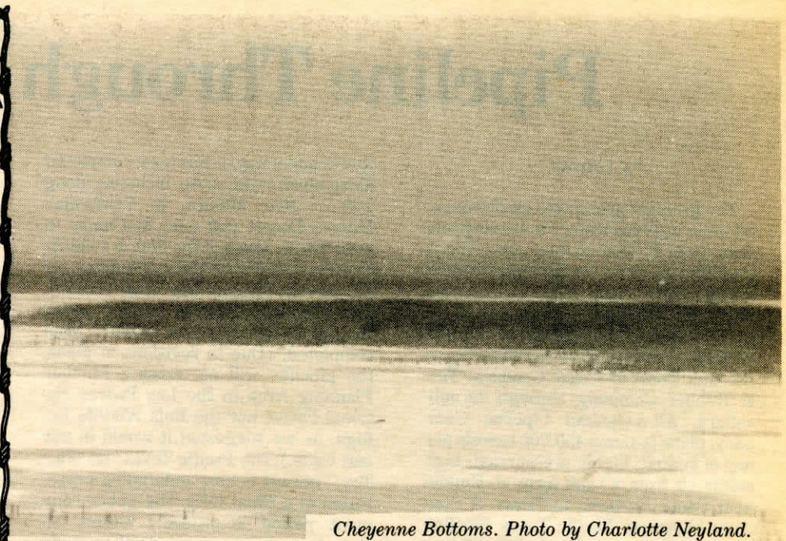

Cheyenne Bottoms. Photo by Charlotte Neyland.

Cheyenne Bottoms

by Charlotte A. Neyland

One of the nation's most important managed wetlands is drying up. Presently the migation habitat for some 600,000 ducks, 40,000 geese and millions of shorebirds, Cheyenne Bottoms in central Kansas is facing the danger many wildlife habitat areas face: that of non-existence.

A natural depression of about sixty-four square miles in the heart of Kansas, Cheyenne Bottoms is the largest interior marshland in the US. It has been the major stopover for migrating waterbirds for centuries. The Bottoms was originally dependent on rainfall and runoff to keep the water level adequate for nesting and migrating birds. In the 1950s, a small dam was built on the Arkansas River to divert water to the Bottoms via a 23-mile canal and an existing creek bed. Dikes were built to create a five-pool permanent marsh of 12,290 acres. Water movement systems allowed for management of the wetland.

Today, less than 10% of the water from the Arkansas River is coming to the Bottoms. Why? According to a Kansas Geological Survey, increased irrigation and land treatment practices that retain rainfall are two probable causes of the river's decline. Adequate water in the Bottoms will require reliable sources of water and improved management of storing and handling of the water coming into the Bottoms.

In 1985 a feasibility study was initiated to find ways to restore Cheyenne Bottoms. This year, with less than half the work yet to complete, the governor of Kansas recommended that funds for the study come solely from revenue earned by the Fish and Game Commission. There will not be enough money in their budget to allow for the study's completion. If this recommendation passes, the study is doomed to die. The funding formula needed to complete the study is as follows: $30,000 from Fish and Game fee fund; $5000 from the non-game wildlife fund; $25,000 from general revenues; for a total fiscal year 1987 appropriation of $60,000.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Senators Merrill Werts and Paul Feleciano, Capitol Bldg., Topeka, KS 66612, asking them to support the funding formula above. Tell them why you want the wetland saved. Send a copy of your letter to Charlotte Neyland, 2019 Polk, Great Bend, KS 67530. Please send a copy of your reply also. Mark the envelope - "Save the Bottoms!"

Foreman to Speak at Texas Pow Wow

POW WOW 86, the 7th annual gathering of hundreds of Texans to celebrate our state's diverse natural history, will take place on April 12-13 at Turkey Hill Wilderness. Nature lovers from around the state will gather in one of our few remaining wildernesses to learn about our vanishing heritage.

Since 1985, Texans have had five established Wilderness Areas in our National Forests. Turkey Hill Wilderness, located east of Lufkin near the Sam Rayburn Reservoir in Angelina National Forest, is of special significance with its endangered plant community, longleaf pine and upland parkland. From the pine parkland near the road, the Wilderness slopes downward to an old growth oak-hickory forest along Turkey Creek. This 6200 acre Wilderness is located on the Cook Mountain geologic formation and features nationally rare Nutmeg hickory, as well as Texas rarities such as Indian pink, short-stemmed iris, and a 30-foot subcanopy of pawpaw.

This year's POW WOW program on Saturday afternoon features an appearance by Earth First!er Dave Foreman as well as Texas Congressman Steve Bartlett. Bill Oliver, ever more renowned wilderness songster and hero of the EF! movement, and the Banded Geckos, a folk and outdoor combo, will deliver their latest songs. Numerous Earth First!ers will attend the POW WOW, including Coyote and the Austin EF! gang. Indeed, the POW WOW will be a mini Texas Earth First! rendezvous, so plan on being there, April 12-13.

For more information, contact Texas Committee on Natural Resources, 5526 Dyer #111, Dallas, TX 75206.

ATTENTION EARTH FIRSTERS! Montana EF! in conjunction with the EF! Grizzly Bear Task Force is staging a MAJOR ACTION in Yellowstone early this summer. Your bodies, minds and $ are needed to ensure that this CRITICAL issue receives nationwide publicity. Yellowstone grizzlies are counting on your help so do us a favor up here in Big Sky country and LIVELY UP YOURSELF for a high profile, high impact ACTION! Messages, ideas and money in the form of a check can be sent to: Jake Kreilick, 228 S. 3rd W., Missoula, MT 59801 (406-549-0346).

EF! GRIZZLY BEAR TASK FORCE FORMS

The Earth First! Grizzly Bear Task Force is now functioning with a post office box and bank account. We need your energy, ideas, participation and money. All contributions will be spent on *action* to protect the grizzly and her habitat. Make checks out to EF! Grizzly Bear Task Force. Contact us at: POB 7572, Missoula MT 59807

NEW MEXICO, MASSACHUSETTS AND OHIO EF! GROUPS FORM

Active Earth First! groups have formed this winter in New Mexico, Massachusetts and Ohio. In New Mexico, a dozen EF!ers met with the Tucson crew in the Cedar Mountains BLM Wilderness Study Area in February to discuss formation of an active EF! group and a variety of issues. Following Dave Foreman's speech in Cleveland in January, an EF! group has formed there and is in touch with EF!ers in Akron. Several campaigns are being planned. Since Bay Area EF! activist Craig Stehr moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, this winter, several EF! meetings have occurred. To contact any of these new EF! groups see the Earth First! Directory.

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RRR WORKSHOPS
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*Earth Rituals with Dolores LaChapelle
*Rainforests
*Grizzly Bears
*Acid Rain
*Local EF! Groups
*Fundraising
*Direct Action
*Guerrilla Theater
*Forest Planning/National Forests
*EF! Wilderness Preserves
*Bioregionalism
*BLM issues
*Animal Costume Making
*Grazing with Denzel & Nancy Ferguson
*Wild Rivers
*Redneck Women's Caucus
*Treeclimbing with Doug Fir
*Paper Monkeywrenching with Jasper Carlton
*Environmental Eurythmics with Jeri McAndrews
*And more!

RRR SPEAKERS AND POETS
*Gary Snyder
*Dave Foreman
*Howie Wolke
*Jeri McAndrews
*Marcy Willow
*Jasper Carlton
*Lone Wolf Circles
*Ned Fritz
*More to be announced!

Round River Rendezvous '86

The Sawtooth crags are mighty snags.
Their crests rise up like spires.
The air is thin where goats have been,
And their peaks are full of liars.

The '86 RRR is coming together beautifully. Workshops, hikes, musicians, speakers, ride coordinators, all kinds of things are being taken care of by all you EF!ers out there. Just one more crucial thing, the most important of all, **you all come!**

There's maybe one more thing we could do: How about kegs instead of 6-packs? It'd be cheaper, more ecological. What do folks think of this idea? Anyone want to take care of this?

See you at the Rendezvous!

CARPOOL COORDINATORS

National — Bob Kaspar
POB 37
Glen Haven, WI 53810
(608)794-2373

Colorado — Luke & Kathy
Box 241, Boulder CO 80306
(303)449-4048

Montana — Gary Steele
Rt 1, Box 44K, St. Ignatius, MT 59865
(406)745-3212

Northeast California — Michelle Miller
Box 38A, Cohasset Stage
Chico, CA 95926 (916)345-4746

Arizona — Helen Wilson
Rt 14, Box 488H
Tucson, AZ 85743
(602)744-3215

Grisle
POB 1525
Prescott, AZ 86302

Missouri — Sue Skidmore
1364 S. Plaza
Springfield, MO 65805
(417)882-2947

Iowa — Jennifer Baum-Noah
1003 Arlington Ave. #1
Davenport, IA 52803
(319)322-0541

Art Goodtimes at '85 RRR.
Photo by Mike Stabler.

New York — G. Mark Bromley
c/o Manitoga
Hudson River Nature Center
Garrison, NY 10524

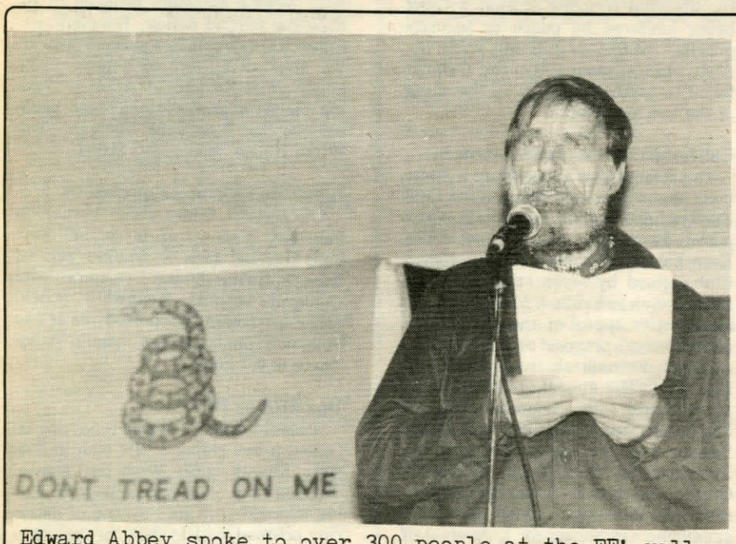
New Mexico — Steve Marlatt
c/o 3957 Westview
Las Cruces, NM 88005
(505)526-9380

Tom Skeele
POB 272
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209)372-4441

or contact your local EF! group or contact

MORE CARPOOL COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED! PLEASE CONTACT BOB KASPAR IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP IN YOUR AREA.

More speakers, musicians, and poets will be confirmed and announced in the Beltane issue along with a map to the RRR site and the schedule for the week.



Edward Abbey spoke to over 300 people at the EF! rally in Tucson, AZ, on February 6. Katie Lee and Bill Oliver performed music, Lone Wolf Circles read poetry, and Dave Foreman ranted and raved. Photo by Coyote.

A Letter to Canada

by Travis T. Calamity

Bureaucrats perceive borders as realities. A bioregionalist, however, should know no border, should recognize no distinctions imposed upon the Earth that nurtures us by those who wish to define areas of ownership and control. To recognize these artificial divisions is to divide our own strength. We here in Washington and Oregon feel the scars dug into British Columbia, and we know that our friends to the north cringe to the vibrations of machines in the Cascades, Olympics, the Kettle Range and others.

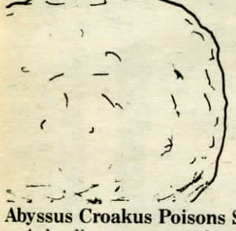
The battles for the Queen Charlottes, Vancouver Island, and the Stein are part of the same war we fight here for the Middle Santiam and the Dark Divide. The connection goes beyond even our movement and our perceptions of Earth as a whole. The subject of international markets and imports is assuming an increasingly important role in the fates of forests in all areas. We must be sensitive to the possibility that a tree saved here, will mean a tree cut there; and we must work to unify our movement, transcending artificial boundaries to resist short-sighted forest practices everywhere.

I feel pain that I am not actively participating in the actions to save Meares Island or South Moresby, even in a different way than I wish I could help in Australia or Central America or the wilderness battles in Texas. BC and the Northwest US share a biome, the history is common, the genetics are practically the same. One could hike through watershed after watershed, from Northern California to Southeastern Alaska, and recognize a chain unbroken, except for the meddlings of a single species. It is now this single species which must form another chain unbroken in order to save what is left. The realities of distances and obligations may often preclude the involvement we would like to have. But it is imperative that we keep lines of communication and support (financially and bodily when possible) between us. Effective networking may mean the difference in whether we save the old growth and wilderness for those who need it most (the residents) or end up playing a game of push-me-pull-you across human borders.

We Earth First!ers in the Seattle area want to be kept informed of needs and progress in the campaigns in BC. Anybody who would like to be a contact can reach us at 206-522-8000; or POB 95316, Seattle, WA 98145 (George Draffan).

NEMESIS NEWS NET

by Australopithecus



Abyssus Croakus Poisons Scientist

A leading expert on hummingbirds, Augusto Ruschi, recently began to die after handling poisonous frogs in the Amazon jungle. The native Indians of the federal territory of Amapa know not to touch these frogs, and attempted to heal the hapless ornithologist by using traditional shamanistic healing rituals. We don't know what came of these healing attempts; if you have such information, send to the Tucson EF! office.

Radicals Sabotage Japanese Railways

Last November 29, radicals brought much of the state-owned Japanese National Railways system to a halt by attacking the railway in 34 places, mostly in Tokyo. They stopped trains for a day on 24 lines, thereby upsetting the travel plans of 18 million commuters. The saboteurs used weapons, including firebombs, but most of their success resulted from their severing of electronic cables which direct the trains. A Japanese criminal specialist noted the significance of this blow to Japan's technological society: "Without using great physical power, it is now possible to threaten the entire mechanism of the city." Japan's Prime Minister Nakasone was particularly outraged by the "evil acts" because he plans to host a meeting of Western leaders in Tokyo in May, and he fears what might happen if, at that time, transportation or overseas communications networks are attacked.

This was the saboteurs' most successful attack against technology to date. They simply lifted lids of concrete trenches containing cables and used heavy-duty shears to sever the cables. They also used a radio transmitter to jam police communications. Previous cable-chopping by these saboteurs had briefly halted air traffic at New Tokyo International Airport (1978) and disrupted trains (1982).

The potential chaos that such saboteurs can do in a high-tech society is becoming even greater as optical fibers replace conventional metal cable lines in communications systems. In Japan, a single fiber may handle 5700 telephone calls; a single cut can stop 5700 telephone calls.

Timber Smuggled from Paraguay to Brazil

Paraguay, renowned as a smugglers' haven, is losing its forests to the illegal timber trade between Paraguay and Brazil. *El Diario* reported that between August 22 and September 8, 639 trucks carrying 9585 cubic meters of timber from Paraguay crossed the 400 kilometer border between Paraguay and Brazil. The Servicio Forestal Nacional claims that it cannot stop the illegal trade "because a large trade is permitted in the region . . . We cannot keep track of all traders to see whether their product is contraband or not."

Ecologists Affect Forest Plans

The Forest Plan for West Virginia's Monongahela has been made less terrible due to the efforts of Eastern ecologists. The Freddies received so many comments from environmentalists on their nauseating Draft Forest Plan that they have modified the destructive goals they had set. There will be less roadbuilding, more public input on coal mining leases, less conversion of mixed forests to pine forests, and rather than "increasing timber volume four times [!!!!] in the next 50 years, the cut will stabilize at about the current level."

Charlie Reports Threat of Land Swap

The indefatigable Charlie Watson of NORA (Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association) describes in his latest newsletter a current attempt by Aerojet-General Corporation to arrange a 38,400 acre military land swap in southeast Nevada. Aerojet wants land for a rocket engine test and development facility. The acreage that Aerojet seeks is public land at Coyote Springs, which is in the area of three spectacular Wilderness Study Areas — Delamar Range WSA, Arrow Canyon Range WSA, and Meadow Valley Range WSA. Other rocket test sites in the West — Rocketdyne in San Fernando Valley, California; Aerojet-General in Sacramento; and Martin-Marietta in Denver — now face severe ecological problems including hazardous wastes.

Meanwhile, Charlie also reports in his newsletter that the Concerned Rural Nevadans succeeded in using the infamous 1872 Mining Law for environmental ends. They have filed "placer mining claims on the Navy's illegal 'Bravo 20' bombing range."

Persons wanting more information on these and other issues in the West's most underrated state can obtain Charlie's provocative newsletter by sending $15 to NORA, POB 1245, Carson City, NV 89702 (702-883-1169).

BC Black Bear Kills Surveyor

A mid-sized male black bear charged three men surveying an area 20 miles south of Fort Nelson, British Columbia. The men escaped up a tree but 24-year old G. Ray fell and was quickly dealt a grisly death by the bear. Sadly, one of Ray's partners then summoned a helicopter pilot, who shot and killed the bear.

Alaska Plans to Log Interior

Alaska's governor Bill Sheffield and state forester John Sturgeon have both voiced their intentions to see Alaska's Interior forests felled for export to Japan to raise money for the state. According to *Alaska* magazine, of Alaska's 28 million acres of commercial timber, 22 million are in the Interior. The remainder is in Southeast Alaska on federal land (the Tongass National Forest) so the state gains little money from sale of this timber.

Smurfs Aid Entry to Parks

California's Department of Parks and Recreation has joined General Foods Corporation, which makes Post cereals, in a campaign to attract youngsters to California's "underused" state parks. Box tops from Post Fruit Pebbles, Cocoa Pebbles, Smurf-Berry Crunch and other such sugar delights can be used to obtain a state parks guidebook and free or reduced admission to parks. Governor Deukmejian supports this effort to promote refined sugar and parks.

Gold Miners Invade Brazilian Forests

In its January bulletin, Survival International (29 Craven St., London WC2N 5NT, ENGLAND) reports that "the 18,000 Indians of the Upper Rio Negro in the north west Amazon have been caught up in a violent struggle over the gold on their lands." They have been invaded by prospectors since 1982 and, more recently, by three multinationals. The prospectors and the multinationals are wreaking havoc on the rainforests and on the Indians' cultures. The multinationals have employed a private security firm, Sacopa, which has backing from Brazil's army and police, to force Indians to yield their lands. The Indians, largely members of the Maku and Tukano groups, have appealed for international help. We should write to Brazil's president and ask that he stop this invasion of Brazilian natives' land. Write: Exmo. Sr. Jose Sarney, Presidente da Republica,. Palacio do Planalto, 70000 Brasilia DF, BRAZIL.

Storms Prove Freddies Wrong

Ecologists' claims have been confirmed by Mother Nature in Idaho, southeast Washington, northeast Oregon and western Montana since the major storms of February. Massive land slides and slumping problems are occurring on the St. Joe River, the Weizer River and its tributaries, the South Fork of the Payette, South Fork of the Salmon, and Middle and South Forks of the Boise. It is a repeat of the massive watershed damage that occurred in 1964. The Forest Service claims that this has not happened in the last 100 years, yet actually this is the sixth such occurrence in 21 years. This is a good opportunity for ecologists to point out gross mismanagement of our National Forests by the Freddies and logging industries. Idaho conservationists in particular should awake from their slumber and use these facts to force reforms in the Forest Service.

Quebec Maples Threatened by Strip Mine

In Phillipsburg, eastern Quebec, 85 acres of some of the oldest sugarbush maples in the province are threatened by a proposed limestone stripmine. Local farmers are trying to prevent *Les Produits Calcaires de Bedford* from clearcutting the 200-400 year-old maples and mining the unspoiled land. The company must gain approval from the *Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Quebec* — Quebec's farmland zoning board — to cut trees and mine, so it is not too late to stop the project. The company would sell the limestone as a powder for industrial uses; the pulp-and-paper industry is Quebec's largest limestone purchaser. For information on how to help save the maples, contact: Rosemary Sullivan, Pigeon Hill Bruideen, Ave. Arc en Ciel, St. Armand, P.Q. JOJ 1T0 CANADA.

***WISE* Reports Dutch Action**

"On 15 January 1986, anti-nuclear activists succeeded in occupying a vital electricity coupling station in Ens in the North East Polder in the Netherlands . . . . In a press release delivered earlier, the activists stated that the action should be a warning to the Cabinet of Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers, which was supposed to decide on the location of two new nuclear power plants on January 17. Additionally, the action was to demonstrate the vulnerability of a large-scale electricity production. 'Tonight we could have cut the North of the Netherlands off the grid!' said the activists. Of particular significance is the ease with which the group entered the grounds and the station. By climbing the fence, opening a gate with a master-key and opening the main-gate with a key found in a cupboard, they had access to this vital coupling station without being hindered by police or security guards." (*WISE* 24 Jan. 86) *WISE* reports that subsequently, the Cabinet failed to reach a decision on the siting of the two new plants.

California Mountain Threatened

The following is taken from a statement recently issued by a Sierra Club chapter involved in fighting the proposed Peppermint ski resort: "The Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club, joined by seven other organizations and an individual, has filed an administrative appeal on the Sequoia National Forest's proposal to build a 10,500 capacity downhill ski resort on Slate Mountain. The appeal is addressed to Zane Smith, the Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service, and will require a review of the December 1985 decision of James Crates, Sequoia NF Supervisor, to proceed with the Peppermint Project. The appellants are asking for a reversal of the decision."

For more information contact: Carla Cloer, Chairperson, Peppermint Task Force, Sierra Club/Kern-Kaweah Chapter, 182 East Reid Ave., Porterville, CA 93257 (209-781-8445 or 542-2743).

Bear News Bears Bad News

Bear News (POB 2699, Missoula, MT 59806) reports that the mountain caribou "will not be listed as an endangered species in Montana." The Forest Service will only treat it as a "sensitive" species. Reasons for denial are varied and vile: 1. "Some biologists feel there are too few survivors left to bother with." 2. Timber interests helped squelch the crucial attempt to list mountain caribou. 3. "[F]ederal biologists burdened with a heavy workload may also have played a role." Having succeeded in keeping mountain caribou off the Endangered Species list, timber firms and Freddies will proceed with their plans to road and log caribou habitat, such as the Whitefish Mountains west of Glacier Park, thereby hurting three large mammal species which deserve Endangered status — the grizzly bear, mountain caribou, and timber wolf.

DEA and Freddies Poison Opposition

An article in the *Journal of Pesticide Reform* (winter 1986), pointed out to us by our Forest Service watchdog, Bobcat, reveals that the Drug Enforcement Administration and FS have combined efforts to eradicate marijuana and squelch opposition to their policies in one fell swoop — of a pesticide-spraying plane. To quote the *Journal:* "Since 1982, the Forest Service has become a major force in government marijuana law enforcement, targeting citizens opposed to FS policies.

More than a score of federal agencies, including the DEA, the Internal Revenue Service, and the CIA, are teamed with the FS and state and local law enforcement officials nationwide, ostensibly to crack down on illicit drugs. Tools include aerial surveillance, combing of tax and financial records, review of medical records maintained by public health agencies, and more conventional intelligence activities.

The most publicly visible activity has been the joint DEA-FS plan to eradicate marijuana on FS lands with herbicides. But part of the rationale for the nationwide "marijuana" eradication program is much more far-reaching. As the DEA states it, 'Public opposition fo forest management activities . . . is frequently high in, and adjacent to, areas where cannabis [marijuana] is cultivated.'"

This article goes on to point out that despite the fact that the FS is not a law enforcement agency, and federal agencies are legally prohibited from conducting civil or criminal investigations unless granted special permission, the FS has provided funds for local and state government marijuana law enforcement on private and FS lands.

Reagan Freezes Grazing Fees

In one of the most blasphemous presidential acts in history, Reagan, in mid February, ordered federal lands grazing fees indefinitely frozen. This will perpetuate the subsidized destruction of BLM and Forest Service lands by 31,000 public lands sheep and cattle ranchers in 11 Western states. Western senators succeeded in convincing budget director James Miller to urge Reagan to maintain present underpriced grazing fees, despite Reagan's promise to reduce the federal deficit. Reagan's outrageous act demands a serious protest. We urge all EF!ers to express their anger about Reagan's decision by sending a letter of protest and a public lands cow-pie to: President Reagan, The White House, Wash., DC 20004.

Judge blocks capture of condors

US District Court judge Parker on February 3 issued an injunction stopping the US Fish & Wildlife Service from capturing the last five known wild California condors. Meanwhile, a field observer thought he spotted one or two unknown condors in San Joaquin Valley. There is yet hope!

Dog Attacks Dirt Biker

A medium-sized "Aussie type" dog attacked a boy riding a dirt bike in Tucson's Tanque Verde Wash last month. The dog then quickly disappeared, having succeeded in its purpose of deterring off-road vehicle abuse of the wash. Authorities did not succeed in catching the eco-defender.

TRIBAL LORE

By Australopithecus

Letter-Writing

Addresses: US representatives — US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; US senators — US Senate, Wash., DC 20510; Environmental Protection Agency — 401 M St., SW, Wash., DC 20460; Secretary of Interior — Dept. of Interior, Wash., DC 20240.

Express your outrage to Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel over his recent announcement of plans to open nearly all of the US outer continental shelf to oil exploration within the next five years.

Send letters to the EPA and to representatives opposing EPA's plans to grant permits to Chemical Waste Management, At-Sea Incineration and others to incinerate chemical wastes at sea. Ask representatives to support as an interim measure HR 1295, Barbara Boxer's bill to place a moratorium on ocean incineration until the EPA adequately studies this and other methods of waste disposal. But tell the EPA and representatives that even HR 1295 does not suffice; no ocean incineration should be permitted.

Write to Forest Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest, 800 South 6th St., Williams, AZ 86046 expressing your opposition to the proposed Grand Canyon uranium mine. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Canyon mine is now available from the same address, and comments on it will be accepted until May 1.

Express your opposition to ORVs and development in the wild Pine Barrens area of New Jersey to: John Stokes, Pinelands Commission, Box 7, New Lisbon, NJ 08064; and Thomas F. Hampton, Office of Natural Land Management, 109W State St., Trenton, NJ 08625. Ask that all of the Pine Barrens be preserved in as wild a state as possible.

Write to your senators and representative and to Representative James Weaver, chair of the Forest Management Subcommittee of the the House Interior Committee, urging an immediate halt to clearcutting in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Additionally, it is particularly important that letters be sent to the House Committee leaders Morris Udall, John Seiberling, Sidney Yates, and Bruce Vento. Ask them to conduct Oversight Hearings on the Forest Service's overdue report to Congress called the "Status of Management on the Tongass National Forest." Tell them to adopt SEACC's recommendations. (See article in last issue.) SEACC expects the FS's report, due last December, to reach Congress by early April — if environmentalists apply pressure on Congress to force the FS to turn in its report.

Tell representatives to oppose any amendment to HR 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Bill, which would prevent reservation of water rights for Wilderness areas. Also, say that the Nevada Wilderness Bill should be drastically improved so as to protect all of Nevada's de facto National Forest wilderness.

Ask Representatives Edward Markey and John Dingell (chair of the House Energy Committee) to work for changes in PURPA to remove incentives to build hydroelectric dams.

Write on behalf of Lake Minnewaska in New York's Shawagunk Mountains. This area may be spoiled by health spas and other developments unless the State pursues condemnation of the lake property. Ask Albert E. Caccese (First Deputy Commissioner, NY State Office of Parks, Rec., and Historic Preservation, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1, Albany, NY 12238) to have the State purchase and preserve Minnewaska.

California residents: Write your assembly member (State Capitol, Sacramento 95814) in support of AB 846, a bill to prevent state approval of dams on the 17 waterways designated by the state as Wild Trout streams.

Ask assembly members to support AB 722 to protect the Sacramento River from the Army Corps' plans to riprap its streambanks.

Urge your senators and representative to support Wild status for all unspoiled portions of the North Fork Kern, South Fork Kern, Kings, South Fork Kings, and Merced Rivers.

Charlotte Neyland on Taxes

During the 1985 Rendezvous, a group of us formed the EF! Tax Committee. Our goal is to find existing tax laws promoting effective land use. Each member researches their area for information about laws which encourage preservation measures. Examples are two programs in Kansas which pay cash or give public recognition for preservation: the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, maintained by the Fish and Game Commission; and the Soil Conservation Award Program sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association.

On the national level, the "sodbuster section" of the 1985 Farm Bill will pay cash to landowners, starting in March of 1986, who enter highly erodable land in the Conservation Reserve Program. The land then becomes ineligible for planting crops for ten years. Permanent vegetative cover must be planted. Participants will receive annual rental payments up to $30,000 or its equivalent (in-kind payments) per year. Planting assistance will be given by state and local agencies. During the period from 1986 to 1990, up to 45 million acres may be enrolled in the reserve. Rental payment amounts depend on the bids per acre and the number of acres under the ten-year contracts. Fifty percent of eligible costs of establishing trees or grass on the acreage will also be granted to participants. There is no limit on cost-sharing for cover establishment. The USDA's Soil Conservation Service will provide assistance in determining if land is eligible. The Forest Service will assist with tree planting. State wildlife agencies will assist with wildlife enhancement. Interested farmers should contact their local office of the US Department of Agriculture's Stabilization and Conservation Service.

To search for preservation programs contact one or more of these offices in your state or county: State Fish and Game Commission, Federal Soil Conservation Office, State/County Ground Water Management, State/County Department of Agriculture. Anyone participating in this research, please mail information to the EF! Tax Committee, c/o Charlotte Neyland, 2019 Polk St., Great Bend, KS 67530.

Data Center Helps EF!

The Data Center in Oakland is a non-profit, progressive research library. They have vast amounts of information on environmental topics. Thanks to the EF! Foundation, EF! has an organizational membership which allows anyone in EF! access to its files, or they will sell us information by phone or write-in order for reasonable prices. For info on how to use the Data Center, contact Karen Pickett, Bay Area EF!, POB 83, Canyon, CA 94516 (415-376-7329). The Data Center is located at 464 19th St., Oakland, CA 94612 (415-835-4692).

WV EF!er Seeks Other EF!ers

West Virginia's ecosystems are facing numerous onslaughts and there is not yet a unified Earth First! chapter to face them. Thus our WV contact would like to hear from other WV EF!ers. Write: JR Spruce, Box 222A, RR#1, Ridgeley, WV 26753.

Conferences

The Earth Regeneration and Reforestation Association (TERRA) is calling a conference on deforestation for the northeastern US and southeastern Canada. The conference will be held at the home of the co-sponsor, the ALTER Project of Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania, on June 20-22. TERRA has also called upon 1000 groups in other regions of the world to host their own conferences, preferably on the same date. TERRA will act as clearing house to refer people to local conferences and also will edit proceedings of these conferences into one or more documents. TERRA seeks your participation in this Earth-healing work. TERRA suggests that you co-sponsor a conference, attend a conference, contribute to the scholarship fund, help with the publishing project, assist in fund raising, or share your mailing list. For more information, or to offer assistance, contact: TERRA, c/o Elfin Permaculture, POB 202, Orange, MA 01364 (617) 544-7810.

Grizzly Conference

The Environmental Center of the University of Colorado in Boulder is holding a conference on the Yellowstone Grizzly April 4-5, 1986. The conference features speakers representing a wide range of viewpoints, from agency personnel charged with managing the grizzly, to radical activists such as Dave Foreman. Other speakers include John Craighead, bear biologist; Alston Chase, agency critic; Tom McNamee, author of *The Grizzly Bear;* Larry Roop, Wyoming Fish and Game Department biologist; Steve Mealey, Shoshone National Forest Supervisor; Jasper Carlton; and Tony Povilities, grizzly bear activist. The program will include panel discussions, films, slide shows, a wine and cheese reception, and a grizzly bear art show. The registration fee is $8. Meals with the speakers and the reception can be reserved in advance for an additional $7-$23. To register, contact the CU Environment Center, UMC 331 A, Campus Box 207, U. of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309 (303) 492-8307. The conference is sponsored by the CU Environment Center, the UCSU Cultural Events Board, the Indian Peaks Group of the Sierra Club, the Boulder Audubon Society, and the Colorado Mountain Club.

This June 6-8, the School of Living will sponsor a Community Land Trust conference. Workshops and resources covering the why's and how-to's of Community Land Trusts, legal and tax aspects, ecological land use, etc., will be presented. Costs: $65-85 (sliding scale), covers tuition, two nights, six meals. For info contact: Heathcote Community Conference Center, attn. land trust, 21300 Heathcote Rd., Freeland, MD 21053 (301-343-0280).

Apache-Sitgreaves Plans

The draft 50-year management plan for Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has been released and is open for public comment until May 1. The plan calls for increased logging with little emphasis on recreational activities, and for 497 miles of road "improvements" in the next ten years. Within 30 years timber harvests will be 80% higher than the current annual average. Cutting will occur on roadless areas that the Freddies admit are unsuitable for logging and can't be reforested due to slope or soil conditions. Currently, only 1.3% of the Apache-Sitgreaves is designated Wilderness though it has many roadless areas that should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Write to Nick McDonough, Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, POB 640, Springerville, AZ 85938. Send copies to Congress and Governor Babbitt. Demand that the Plan be revised to put greater emphasis on wildlife and natural values by leaving all roadless areas intact and closing unneeded roads. ORV use must be stopped — the current plan opens 87% of the Forest to ORVs. Demand an end to logging in areas that cannot be reforested, and an end to deficit timber sales.

SportPAC in Idaho Forms

Hunters and fishers in Idaho have formed a pro-conservation political action committee to seek to prevent election disasters such as in 1980 when Reaganites swept out of office many of the better politicians in the US, including Idaho's Senator Frank Church. In SportPAC's words: "Though many conservation-type groups in Idaho are gearing up for the 1986 election, the greatest impact is to be gained from sportsmen, most of whom do not align with organized groups . . . 281,000 voting age Idahoans hold hunting or fishing licenses, and there are only 503,000 registered voters. It is our goal to inform, register, and urge these sportsmen to vote for candidates who will protect their needs for productive habitat, anadromous fish, and clean water." This PAC may prove to be a strong ally for ecologists trying to gain Wilderness designation for Idaho's unspoiled lands and trying to end the problem of livestock overgrazing on public lands. Good sporters realize that it is in their best interest to advocate a strong Idaho Wilderness Bill and to get cows and sheep off Idaho's BLM and FS lands. You can contact SportPAC at POB 2276, Boise, ID 83701-2276 (208-344-3122).

New Way to Distribute *EF!*

Oregon EF! is staging an experiment in news dissemination. Two newspaper distribution boxes, purchased from the local newspaper, have been on the streets for a month. Early returns are promising. With a few shuttles we can discover the most productive sites. Consider this method to raise funds and increase *Earth First!* subscriptions.

SEACC Releases Public Report

Calling the current management of the Tongass National Forest a "National Disgrace," the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council on February 13 released a report entitled "The Last Stand for the Tongass National Forest." The report focuses on "our Nation's largest, most abused and most mismanaged national forest" and points the way to sweeping reform measures. SEACC has proposed a series of recommendations to Congress to reform the management of the Tongass including eliminating Sec. 705 of ANILCA, cancelling the 50 year contracts, and bringing the Tongass Land Management Plan into compliance with Federal laws. (See the cover article in our Brigid issue.) "Now is the time for Congress to change the course of the Tongass . . ." said SEACC director Bart Koehler. "The next four years truly represent the Last Stand for the Tongass." SEACC will establish a temporary office in Washington, DC, in order to conduct a public information campaign, and push for a complete Congressional review and comprehensive oversight hearings. Copies of SEACC's full report and a summary report are available from SEACC, POB 1692, Juneau, AK 99802 (586-6942).

Restoring Salmon Streams

By Bobcat

Too often environmentalists forget that wilderness preservation alone is just a defensive holding action. In the long run, it will not even succeed in protecting wilderness unless we begin to take the offensive and start restoring the places that have been damaged by people. Thankfully, there is a growing movement of environmentalists and bioregionalists interested in habitat restoration and wilderness enlargement. In recent years many residents of the Siskiyou region of northern California and southern Oregon have taken an interest in restoring fish habitat. This article will focus on one group of people who have inventoried possibilities for resource enhancement, and have begun to do the work.

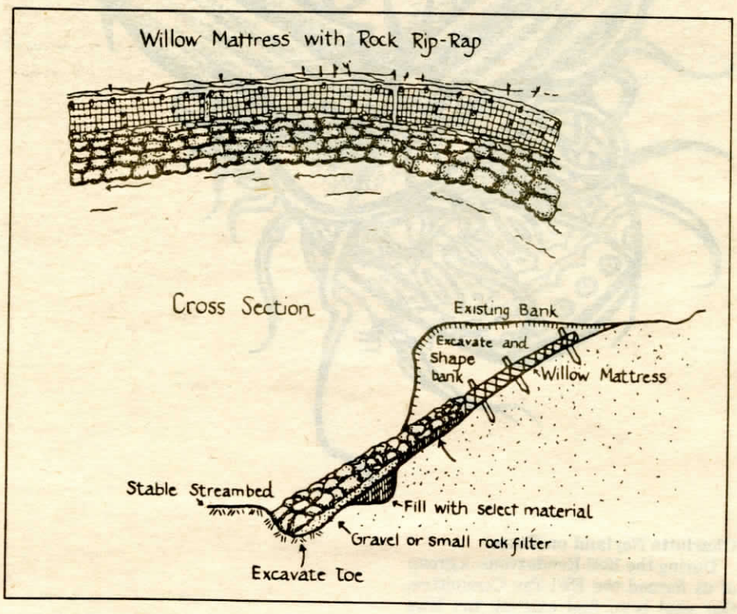
The Natural Resources Division of Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) in Eureka, California started in 1982 by looking at information regarding the condition of all coastal streams from Point Delgado on the "Lost Coast" of Humboldt County 130 miles north to the Oregon border. Of 147 coastal streams and tributaries, significant information was available for only 40. From these, plus some inland waterways, RCAA selected several high priority projects, submitted proposals to the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game, received funding for 15 of them, and began work. Most of the projects involve one or more of the following kinds of activities:

1. Stabilization of streambanks by a) revegetation -- plantings of willow, alders, and other native species; and b) armoring streambanks with rocks, large branches, and sprouting willow "mattress" frameworks.
2. Removal of in-stream debris that blocks fish migration and diverts high storm flows into unstable slopes.
3. The creation of spawning and rearing pools for salmon and steelhead.
4. Reducing erosion from roads with water bars, and encouraging local roadwatch groups to maintain cleared culverts.
5. Fencing livestock out of the riparian zone.

Many of these techniques have been invented or adapted to site-specific conditions by RCAA. There's not much precedent for this kind of human endeavor. In the past, people either took care of their resources from the beginning, or moved away from an area after exploiting it.

The Redwood Community Action Agency is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to low income residents of Humboldt County. Its board of directors includes representatives from the County Board of Supervisors and low-income people elected at public meetings. RCAA's Natural Resources Division fits into this framework by providing jobs for people, working to restore the natural resource base for increased jobs in the future local economy.

While the main focus has been on stream restoration, RCAA workers also take on other tasks, such as their recent forestry contract with Simpson Timber Company in Blue Lake for manual brush clearing at a plantation. In the last two years, RCAA has brought over a half million dollars to the North Coast for stream restoration.



Decades of abuse of forests have made habitat restoration necessary. Massive logging of old growth redwood and Douglas-fir during the past 100 years have created erosion and sedimentation problems. The recent relaxation of standards by the California Board of Forestry (and the Forest Plans currently being developed by the U.S. Forest Service) indicate that while the rate of resource degradation has slowed down, it has by no means stopped.

There is no better way to understand the damage being done than by trying to heal it. Furthermore, the results of habitat restoration work are rewarding to see. Extensive work in southern Humboldt County by Mattole Restoration Council volunteers has checked erosion and begun the rearing of native silver and king salmon in tributaries of the Mattole River. Silver salmon spawners have now returned to Mill Creek for the first time in 15 years, and the steelhead season on the Mattole was the best in recent memory.

While there is hope that salmon and steelhead will once again be able to swim the Mattole in full strength, there is definitely a need for continued vigilance. The Bureau of Land Management's Wilderness review for the King Range recommends logging the headwaters of the Mattole (Squaw, Honey, and Bear Creeks) upstream from where the restoration work has been done.

Many of us feel that fish, streams, soil and all parts of Nature have inherent value. However, not enough people realize that the integrity and beauty of these natural systems is a great economic asset. A diversity of local natural resources provides the base for a diversity of jobs with locally owned businesses. These offer a more stable, long-term economic base than can a single product, capital intensive industry such as wood fiber production that is subject to the boom/bust cycles of national and international markets. The goal is to create jobs that enhance future resources, not diminish them!

One of the most interesting projects undertaken by RCAA is the restoration of Little Larabee Creek, tributary to the Van Duzen River. Working under a grant from the California Department of Fish & Game, the RCAA crew removed or modified three log jams of old cut-logs, and installed water-bars and other improvements on up-slope roads.

Each log jam was associated with a landslide, and these two events tend to aggravate each other. Log jams may direct high storm flows into unstable slopes, and landslides can add further debris to the log jams. Time heals some wounds, but others, due to erosion and stream channel interactions, tend to self-perpetuating . . . only getting worse until the right kinds of actions are taken.

More work needs to be done around Little Larabee Creek. The following is a description of an event too extensive for the initial RCAA work crew to handle: A massive avalanche occurred in a 1983 spring storm. A forested tributary drainage had been wiped out by a mud avalanche chute 1500 feet in length, 30 feet wide and 20 feet deep. At the bottom of the new gully, massive amounts of sediment, rocks, and tanoak boles had filled the channel of Little Larabee Creek, damming the stream, and pushing the channel over into the opposite bank. At the top of the gully, the origin area of the slide was a semi-circular hollow 40 yards across, with active slurries of mud, periodic small avalanches, and a brown torrent coming from under the upper right bank. Further up the slope were various human developments with the potential to further aggravate this unstable area, including artificial ponds.

Right now, nothing is being done to stabilize this slide, and there are hundreds like it that occur throughout the unstable topography of the Klamath-Siskiyou mountains. One example of the relative costs and benefits of healing these wounds is the work done by the Gasquet Ranger District of Six Rivers National Forest on the Rib Debris Slide (Idlewild Creek, Middle Fork Smith River). Here, control of surface drainage by waterbarring and vegetating skid trails adjacent to the slide, modification of the stream channel to control erosion of the bottom of the slide, and revegetation of bare slide surfaces and riparian areas was done, all at a cost of $22,300. In contrast, "The value of the anadromous fish habitat that has been or could be substantially degraded by sediment input from the slide is estimated at $170,000 per year." (Michael J. Furniss, 1984)

Fortunately, the economic benefits of this kind of environmental restoration are beginning to be noticed by many people — from fishers to state legislators. The California Dept. of Fish & Game has been operating its Northcoast Cooperative Salmon and Steelhead Project on an annual budget of $900,000 since 1982. Last year, $55 million was appropriated to restore the Trinity River fishery, and another $73.5 million is now being proposed to do the same for the Klamath. Oregon's state-funded programs are on a smaller scale, but there are volunteer groups working in the Rogue Valley.

In order to know how best to save streams, it helps to first look at the needs of the fish themselves. In bad years, 20% of California's productive capacity for chinook salmon has been lost to the IHN virus, which is aggravated by the crowded and unnatural conditions in hatcheries. A quarantine has been placed on chinook eggs and fish from the Trinity River Hatchery; and to protect natural stocks, no foreign strains of salmon or steelhead may be planted in the Smith, Klamath, Mattole, Middle Fork Eel or Van Duzen above Yager Creek. The long-term viability of salmon as a species depends on maintaining the genetic diversity of the natural runs. This in turn requires a diversity of natural, healthy habitats — just what is required for a strong local human economy as well.

What is good for Earth is good for us all. It is reassuring to know that there are hard-working people who are trying to restore our natural environment to its full life-supporting potential.

Some habitat restoration groups:

California Conservation Corps, 201 Project — Melvin Kreb, POB 176, Weott, CA 95571 (707-946-2262)

Mattole Support Group, POB 188, Petrolia, CA 95558

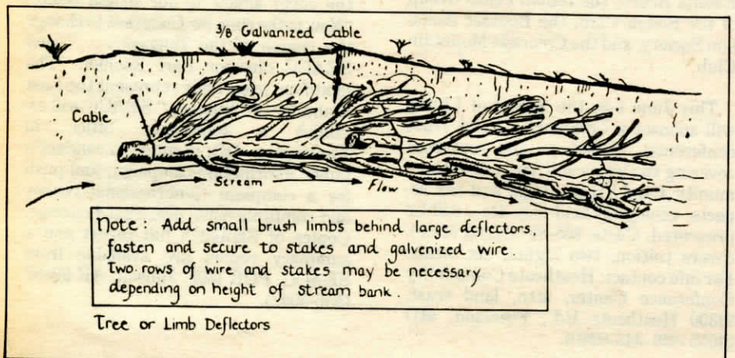
Redwood Community Action Agency, Natural Resources Division, 904 "G" St. Eureka, CA 95501 (707-445-0881)

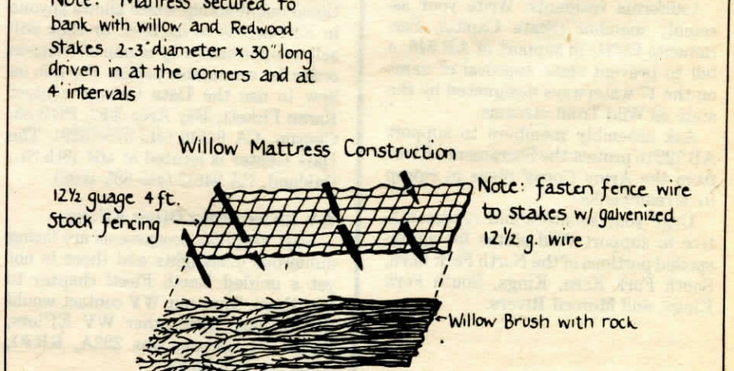
Rogue River Guides Association, Box 792, Medford, OR 97501

Note: The BLM and Forest Service are planning to do some of this type of work. Contact managers of public land to inform them of what work should be done in your region.

This article appeared in a slightly different form in ***Sinkyone Country.*** *The author, Bobcat, is one of the leading environmental activists in Oregon, and is an expert on forests and the Forest Service.*

MOVING? SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS!


3/8 Galvanized Cable
Cable
Stream
Flow
Note: Add small brush limbs behind large deflectors, fasten and secure to stakes and galvenized wire. Two rows of wire and stakes may be necessary depending on height of stream bank.
Tree or Limb Deflectors


Note: Mattress secured to bank with willow and Redwood stakes 2-3" diameter x 30" long driven in at the corners and at 4' intervals
Willow Mattress Construction
12½ guage 4 ft. Stock fencing
Note: fasten fence wire to stakes w/ galvenized 12½ g. wire
Willow Brush with rock

The Howling Wilderness?

by Lynn Jacobs

Photos by Dave Foreman.

Robert Spertus' good piece in the Beltane '85 issue, "The Dark Side of Wilderness," brings up a recurrent theme in our common conception of the natural world. It is widely held by not only the average environmentally illiterate and disconnected American, but by many environmentalists, that though the wilderness may offer beauty, solitude, fulfillment, enlightenment and more, it is also a place of discomfort, struggle, and hardship — a test of physical strength, a challenge to the psyche, and a measure of emotional and spiritual stability. No doubt much of this notion stems from the fact that "The few places left on Earth that have not been altered by the hand of man are almost invariably hostile to him." (Dale Brown, *Wild Alaska*)

All of our designated Wilderness areas in this country have one outstanding characteristic in common (aside from the obvious one of being comparatively "wild") — they're invariably undesirable for extended human habitation or substantial resource development. In fact, the entire National Wilderness System amounts to nothing more than a collection of the very least desirable areas for human occupation or exploitation — rocks and ice, steep mountainsides, unproductive canyonlands and badlands, barren deserts, and such.

This may seem like a statement of the obvious, but it affects most of us more than a little with regards to our overall relationship to our environment, and to our perception of "wilderness" in particular. The gulf between ourselves and the natural ways of the world increases each year as we perceive (correctly) that the ever-shrinking natural world around us becomes more and more inhospitable to human comfort. Can we help feeling somewhat "ambiguous" about the natural world when the only truly natural surroundings we experience are, though beautiful, extremely cold, hot, wet, dry, snowy, and/or bug-infested? Wilderness areas are the most natural places we have left, and also the most difficult to live in naturally. Under these circumstances, can we help but correlate "more natural" with "more difficult," "more uncomfortable," etc.? When most of our wilderness experiences, though worthwhile on the whole, are accompanied by uncomfortable ordeals, can we (diehard macho types notwithstanding) help but develop a gut feeling of disharmony with Nature in general? It seems that Mother Nature is dropping a few notches on the benevolence scale each year. If we want to save the natural within us as well as without, we need to be conscious of this subtle influence.

This gives us more reason to fight to save Earth's remaining wild areas. In addition to this, we need to work to reclaim vast areas in the more hospitable locations and restore those lands to a state of wilderness. Why shouldn't at least a small percentage of this country's more level, fertile, and well-watered lands be preserved in a natural condition — as places to experience the generosity of Nature at its fullest or as wilderness for its own sake, where species diversity and wildlife numbers are at their greatest? All of North America was wilderness until just a few hundred years ago. We need to move a long way back in that direction before the planet is healthy once again. How about an expansive Central California Coastal Hills Wilderness or a Sacramento River Valley Wilderness or a Puget Sound Wilderness or a sizable Arizona Grassy Plains Wilderness or a vast Iowa Grasslands Wilderness or a Louisiana Bottomlands Wilderness or a Carolina Coastal Plain Wilderness or . . . ?

Lynn Jacobs is an Arizona ecologist to whom many of us are indebted for generously supplying us with free copies of *Sacred Cows*.

The Big Outside

By Dave Foreman

In 1936, *The Living Wilderness* published Bob Marshall's inventory of the remaining large roadless areas in the United States. Despite the Wilderness Act mandate review, the Forest Service's RARE I & II, and the BLM's wilderness review, there has not been another comprehensive inventory of contiguous large roadless areas in the United States since that time.

Howie Wolke and I are currently compiling such an inventory which will be published by Ned Ludd Publishing Co. (formerly Earth First! Books) in the summer of 1986. Unlike previous roadless area inventories by government agencies, ours looks at contiguous roadless areas regardless of agency or ownership. All roadless areas of 100,000 acres or larger (50,000 acres or larger in Hawaii and east of the Rockies) will be inventoried including National Forests, BLM, Park Service, National Wildlife Refuges; Military Reservations; Indian Reservations; State Parks, Wildlife Refuges, State Forests & other state-managed lands; and private lands.

The inventory will be presented in two parts: one, a state by state listing of roadless areas with descriptions and breakdowns of acreage (National Forest, private, state, etc; designated Wilderness Area, contiguous RARE II area, etc.; unprotected contiguous acreages slated for development or currently being roaded). And two, a simple listing of all the areas in order of size.

The definition for "road" in the inventory will essentially follow the definition as it *should* have been used by the Forest Service and BLM in their studies (Rupe Cutler's guidelines to the USFS, and FLPMA's committee report definition) — in essence, a road is a constructed vehicle way not requiring 4-wheel drive vehicles. Jeep trails with vegetation growing in their center are not "roads." This is, of course, an arbitrary judgment for each vehicle route.

It is important to point out that these inventoried roadless areas will not necessarily constitute *wilderness proposals* by Earth First! or any other group. They are building blocks for Wilderness proposals, but EF! proposals will be larger and advocate the closure of roads separating otherwise contiguous blocks of wild country.

The purpose for the inventory and book is simple: large roadless areas protect pristine ecological relationships, natural diversity, and the human sense of remoteness better than do smaller areas. *Real* wilderness is big. By identifying the largest roadless areas in the nation, and the threats to them, conservationists can better focus their energies for the protection of natural diversity. We have been so locked into the separate federal agency mindset, that we do not really know about the big areas.

The inventory will include the lower 48 states and Hawaii. For a variety of reasons, Alaska is not being included. After the first edition is published, we hope to be able to update the book through comments from readers in about a year; future editions will come out on an irregular basis and reflect the destruction of the large roadless areas by government agencies and industry. The book will also feature a discussion of the importance of *large size* to wilderness preservation, and a brief history of large roadless areas. We will include maps of each state, and some photographs.

Obviously assistance is needed for a project of this magnitude. Draft compilations of areas and their roadless acreages have been completed and circulated for review to leading wilderness experts. Additional review is needed particularly for Hawaii, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan and South Dakota (are there roadless areas of 50,000 acres or larger in any other states east of the Rockies?). If you would like to help this important project by checking our figures for large roadless areas in a state where you are knowledgeable, please contact Dave Foreman at POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.

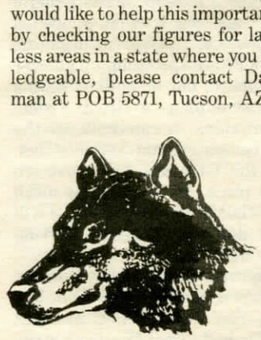
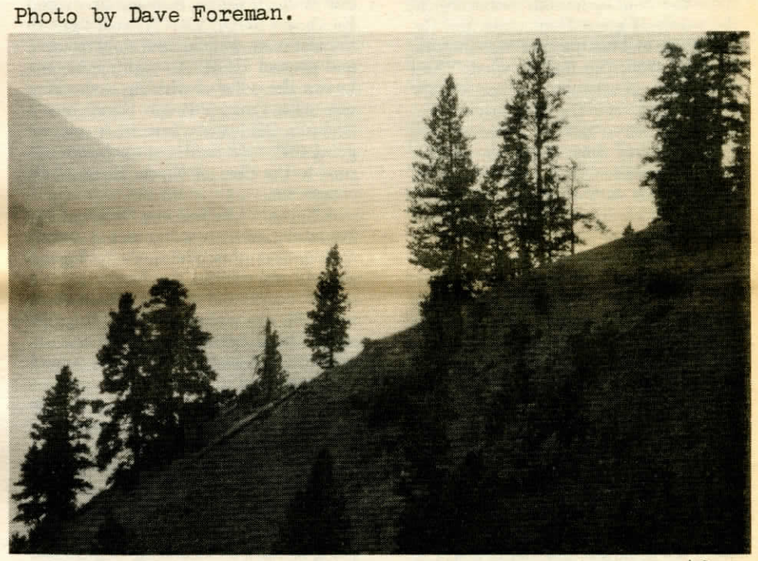


Photo by Dave Foreman.



River of No Return -- largest roadless area in lower 48.

LETTERS
(continued)

our complaints. As the case is in court now, it was obviously not the cattlemen who listened.

In the course of all the trouble with them, I was given *Sacred Cows*. I was amazed to discover the extent of the problem. I also related to the description of the cattlemen's attitude. We have been ignored and threatened by them. They complain about how little money they make and give their ultimate rebuttal — "We've been doing this for hundreds of years." At the public's expense and illegally whenever possible.

I intend to pass out the books to my friends. If you have suggestions about my particular case, or people to write concerning public land abuse, let me know. Thanks much to the Fergusons and Lynn Jacobs!

Hattie Guy
19375 Lake City Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Friend,

Vermont, too, has serious environmental problems. In 1965, our highway system stood at a total of 81,000 acres. It now stands at 428,000 acres. In one ski resort area, construction has increased 425%. Our whitetail deer herd is being destroyed by our Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's idiocy of antlerless hunting. Vermont's deer herd is one of our greatest natural resources. The trees in critical habitat areas are logged-out. This gives an excuse to kill the deer so "They won't starve to death." 3) No food, no deer = no development obstacle. The critical "wintering yards" for whitetails are also homes for coyotes, rabbits, mice, hawks, nuthatches and other creatures. Vermont has only 9000 square miles within its borders. At one time we had a beautiful deer herd of 120,000 . Now it is half that size and has only 480 square miles of wintering yard.

Vermont's wildlife habitat and wetlands are being destroyed, yet we lack the ability to organize into an effective force. Some of us have been fighting this situation for years. We have no "experts," no "qualified biologists" that back us publicly. We are attempting to put together an organization that has been named Vermont Wildways. Most Vermonters are extremely conservative. Therefore I have doubts about the life expectancy of Vermont Wildways.

Vermont needs help! This is the first time since I returned from Nam that I've asked for assistance. An organizer, a biologist, whatever. Do you have the resources?

"I, the buck, with doe and fawn,
In the way of progress, a silent pawn!"

Jim Dowers RR 1 Box 2350, Barre, VT 05641

The Gourd of Ashes

by David Seals

"We'll go in with the Arizona National Guard and helicopter assaults if we have to," Senator Barry Goldwater said recently, "We are not going to tolerate illegal resistance."

Was he talking about invading Nicaragua? Libya? No, this time the champion of the Law was talking about Big Mountain, where a bunch of dangerous old Indian ladies are defying the entire might of God's Greatest Democracy with shotguns and Navajo grit. You ought to see those gals sitting on their porches taking potshots at FBI helicopters and Peabody Coal pickups, their wrinkled faces set in grim determination and their wrinkled hands anxiously fingering pockets full of .410 shells. They make me, a big burly Huron in my prime, feel like a real scaredy cat. I mean, these ladies are TOUGH!

What's it all about? Besides the same old genocide, Big Mountain is a new version of the Trail of Tears, Wounded Knee, Babi Yar, Soweto, Shiprock on a Saturday night. It is a sacred area on the "Joint Use Area" of the Hopi and Navajo Reservations in northern Arizona that is near the fabulously rich Black Mesa coal fields. There's a shitload of uranium under that land too. So the great Constitutional Government has decided to pass a law and get those damn Savages off the land so "we" (they!) can get all that good profitable National Energy Security strip-mined out of the worthless desert. Ten thousand "will be forcibly removed," in the words of great Democrats and Republicans in Phoenix and Washington, by July, 1986, "no matter what." And those fine gentlemen we see on TV every night, the friendly fascists devoted "to serve and to protect," are doing the dirty work of the Lawmakers and Responsible Citizens by turning Indians against each other, Hopis against Navajos. It's a classic trick. It's worked for thousands of years. It's working in South Africa, turning Blacks against Blacks, and in the Mediterranean, turning Semites against Semites, so that the God-fearing Democrats and Republicans can get all that juicy gold and diamonds and petroleum too, respectively. All in the name of Christian American Purity.

But Arizona? Genocide? Yeah. I was screaming through there in December and stopped in at a lot of the little pockets of resistance to this Great Big Worldwide American Plan, and I heard a lot of ugly talk all over the place. Actually, it's beautiful talk, because it was talk of Resistance. There's a lot of big burly Navajo men who aren't going to let those big burly US Marshalls and Arizona Guardsmen come in there and drag those fragile old ladies out of their hogans, no they ain't. They're fingering their deer rifles and scrounging up all the .22 shells they can find. It's a tremendously emotional and potentially volatile issue that everyone, on both sides, expects to turn into violence. It could be like Wonded Knee 2 back in 1973 — the 82nd Airborne and Armored Personnel Carriers swarming around 200 warriors with popguns on that cold South Dakota battlefield. People died there, and they will probably die in Arizona this spring and summer.

Why? Well, I won't recite the litany of almost 500 years of genocide that Natives of this hemisphere have endured ever since good ol' ('National Holiday') Chris Columbus slaughtered the heathens, you know all that. But what you may not know is that there has been one long relentless Resistance to everything Chris and Pizarro and Reagan and the Boys have stood for ever since 1492 — their Nature-hating religion and their economic and social clap-trap that goes with it. We just won't assimilate, I'm sorry. We have never been able to see the efficacy of their Democracy and their Church, whether it is the bloody version of Cortes or the bloody version of Andy Jackson — it's all the same to us. And we're still seeing 3000 acres of forest on this hemisphere chopped down EVERY HOUR and plutonium creeping into our drinking water in Denver and the filth of the Four Corners Power Plant being the only thing visible to astronauts in Space. Oh, we like penicillin and roads and the Bill Cosby Show too, but it ain't worth raping our sacred Earth, no GODDAMNIT we'll fight to the last man, woman, and child to serve and protect HER! All right, everyone knows the odds of winning a shooting war with Barry ("Bomb Hanoi into a cinder") Goldwater, but what are we going to do? Surrender our superior culture to the likes of Nancy Reagan? Of course not.

A Navajo Elder told me, "Without Big Mountain and its encompassing shrine, springs and other places of offering and prayer, and plants, the Navajo people would be unable to heal themselves when ill, or celebrate when things go well. These beliefs and practices are part of the Navajo Dine religious faith and tradition."

Are we going to stand by and let the pollution of our sacred land, water, and air kill our children? The Elders are saying they are the last generation that can preserve the ancient memories of Knowledge because all the younger Indians and Polynesians and Inuits are going to town and learning English and Spanish and drinking booze and driving Chevrolets. It's now or never, they say, for all 100 million Natives of this hemisphere to stand up and die if they must to stop the Haters from Europe. I don't like the idea of guns either; it violates everything I believe in as a Poet and Pipe-carrier and I have never picked up a weapon against another human being, but are we just going to continue copping out by writing our Congressmen and organizing demonstrations? Those things don't work.

But let's look at this from the wise perspective of the Elders and from a comprehensive view of our entire hemisphere. I think that's the last way for our generation to go down in posterity as PEACEMAKERS and not statistics in a radioactive graveyard.

I am writing this for *Earth First!* because I like your philosophy and because Dave Foreman, in the Mabon issue (where my article, "Natives and Natural Peoples: Let's Work Together," appeared) said, "I would like to see a natural and honest working together between EF! and Indians — in mutual respect, without guilt, and with a firm commitment to Earth. My tribal ancestors in northern Europe were conquered by Middle Eastern/Greek/Roman 'Western' Civilization one thousand years ago. We may just have the same enemy."

Right on, Dave. Not many Indians are aware of the tribal histories of Europe; we just heard English, French, Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese as we were being massacred beneath the Cross. Who are these guys anyway, who run Kennecott and Peabody and the CIA and AT&T and Bechtel?

There is a major pyschosis at work somewhere, but I'll save a psycho-sexual analysis of patrilineal mythology for another article. Perhaps in homage to the late great Robert Graves, the old pagan.

In our opinion, the traditional pre-Christian opinion of the thousands of tremendously varied Native Nations from the Arctic to the Antarctic, we managed the land pretty well for almost 12,000 years until Columbus stepped ashore in the Caribbean. No one has evidence of acid rain, AIDS, underground nuclear tests, exhausted aquifers, clearcutting, open-pit mines, or Twinkies wrappers from the Great Deluge of the last Ice Age. We weren't farmers and we didn't build cities and conquer whole areas with great armies until about 3000 years ago; and even then, with the Aztec and Incan cities of gold and slavery, most of the Native Nations were still hunters and gatherers with small populations and a generally "live and let live" attitude. Most of the hemisphere was not overrun by the out-of-control agriculturalism that was sweeping through Africa, Asia, and Europe. We kept an even keel, generally. There were warrior societies, and some headhunters, and a few cannibals, and we enjoyed our homemade brew in a few places and there was a lot of trash too, sure, but it biodegraded and we had a low divorce rate in most places. It wasn't perfect and sometimes the living was not easy, but it was sure as hell a lot better than NOW! It ain't all that cockeyed an idea to contemplate reviving some of those basic principles as an alternative to the Reaganites who are always saying: "Yeah, you Malcontents like to tear down things, but what have you got to put in its place?" And 100 million Indians will rise up and shout with one voice "US!."

It's almost incomprehensible for non-Indians to fathom, but it can be done. Replace a few key values that have gone sour with a few other values that are time-tested. I'll lay out a few specifics, but generally I'll keep to the general vision because that is what is needed now. A thousand truly great organizations like EF! are sprouting up all over the hemisphere, but if we don't have a comprehensive plan, a Great Vision, then I don't think we can challenge the intricate computer and satellite networks of the CIA and KGB that are already in place. No matter how much we have RIGHT on our side, we will lose if we don't pull together. Sitting Bull knew that.

The Elders can show us how. Roberta Blackgoat is a Navajo elder from Big Mountain. She says, "I live 28 miles from the Peabody Coal Company strip-mine at Black Mesa. There are days when the air is so foul and full of coal dust that I can't breathe. It's causing sickness among the livestock also. When the sheep are gone, then the people will die." The Elders are warning us that it is now or never. We can no longer hope to work through lawyers and petition our "elected" representatives if we want to survive. Ken Peres of the Northern Cheyenne Nation in Montana says, "Of the 450,000 acres on the reservation, 64% were leased to such corporations as Chevron, Amax, Consolidated Coal and ARCO. Most of these leases were set up to give the Cheyenne Nation a 17.5 cents royalty on the coal removed; but after the elected tribal council saw what the stripping of coal had done to the Navajo and Hopi lands, they decided to get out of the agreements. They hired attorneys who found 36 violations in them and took these to the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs). Amazingly, the BIA decided to hold the leases in abeyance. The tribe is still seeking to have the leases voided altogether. We're handcuffed and can't do anything, while those big strip-mine tractors just keep plowing up our beautiful land all day and all night."

Hopi Cultural Center.

I was having green chile and fry bread with Leonard Burch, a former Chairman of the Southern Ute Nation in Ignacio, Colorado, recently and I asked him if he was going to allow coal companies to come in to his Rezz and bring much-needed capital and jobs. He grinned at me and said, "That coal has been under the ground for millions of years. I guess we can just let it sit there a little longer."

But the nearby Navajo Nation had a much different Chairman a few years back, Peter McDonald, and they have had to endure a much different story. Thirty-eight mines, eight uranium mills, four coal strip-mines of between 12,000 and 40,000 acres, and five coal-fired energy plants litter their beautiful land and contaminate their wells and cloud their azure Arizona sky. A new Chairman, Peterson Zah, is strapped with McDonald's legacy, even though he is trying hard to "modify" the situation. "We have consistently endorsed a comprehensive settlement of these (Hopi-Navajo JUA) disputes," he said recently. "Anything less will simply lead to another 100 years of strife as the Hopis push their claims to the 1934 Navajo reservation."

Hopi tribal Chairman Ivan Sidney says, "We commend Senator Goldwater and the Congressional leaders who had the courage to uphold the law and continue to do what is right."

Zah says, "These Navajo families are the victims of the most massive relocation program since the internment of the Japanese during World War II."

Both Chairmen are completely frustrated and don't know what to do, while the Secret Police mobilize into better position. Irene Wilson Nez, a Big Mountain resident, says, "For a long time all we heard was about a strong force coming from an unknown place to take us off our land. This threat of relocation is a nightmare." Mrs. Nez spoke in Navajo (she doesn't know English). She disagrees with Sidney's statement about Navajos being a wealthy tribe able to "wine and dine" Washington officials in hopes of an extension of relocation. (The extension was recently denied; July, 1986, still remains the DEADline.) "Look at my groceries." She had one loaf of bread and a box of dry cereal in

Photos courtesy of David Seals.

David Seals on the Denver Rezz.

her little hogan, with no electricity or plumbing. "I finished weaving a rug this week just to buy these items." Nez said each time she visits her sister in Gallup the thought of one day haveing modern conveniences and money to spend doesn't appeal to her. "It seems like there is nothing to do in a modern house. At home, I have the sheep to tend to, just like my grandmother did." She is the only one at home now taking care of the sheep since most of her relatives have already been relocated. Tears welled up in her eyes as she thought of being relocated, then she whispered, "What will happen to us?"

Eighty percent of US uranium resources lie on Indian reservations; almost 60% of all US energy resouces currently available may lie on Indian lands. In solidarity with indigenous people throughout the world, Indians are fighting on all fronts to keep their land.

I was drinking coffee with some Navs out by Chinle one time, joking about Barry Dishwater, when a pickup-load of Skins came bouncing over the dirt trails leading to the scattered hogans in the desert. They were from Guatemala and had hair-raising stories to tell. All about slaughter of refugees by the United Fruit Government and various other Trails of Tears all over Central America. These were people with first hand information of it, illegal aliens, and they were scared. They were on the run. We fed 'em and did a purification Sweat Lodge together.

Another time I was in Porcupine, South Dakota, next to Skins in berets and camouflage fatigues from Mexico, Panama, Ecuador. They were from Nations I had never heard of before — Guymi, Kanjobal, Kekchi, Kakchikel, Mam. They told how they were fighting the coffee, oil, and timber companies, which have names I had heard of plenty — Folgers, Boise-Cascade, Gulf, Chevron. They said 45,000 Guatemalans are scattered in over 60 camps along the border, in the state of Chiapas (a popular resort area for rich retired Americans), southern Mexico.

On April 30, 1984, over 200 Guatemalan soldiers invaded the refugee camp "El Chupadero," a settlement of over 2000 Guatemalan Indians who have fled the repression and massacres perpetrated by the Army. It was two o'clock in the morning; everybody was sleeping. Because of the heat, an eight-month pregnant woman and her six-year old son were spending the night outside of their modest shelter of straw and wood. Four hours later, their dead bodies were lying on the ground of the now-empty camp. The boy had been tortured, an ear cut off, his brain opened up.

It could happen in Arizona, as it did 100 years ago when the great Kit Carson did his good deeds for his country. It's happening in Canada right now. At Wollaston Lake in northeastern Saskatchewan, the Lac La Hache People are speaking out against uranium mining up there and they're paying for it. Helen Besskaystare (64) points out, "It was really a beautiful place once. We never thought there would be people coming in to talk about mines. A lot of young people know what's happening because they hear people talking about the lake. Slowly the water is being contaminated. What are we going to live on if our lake with the fish is contaminated?"

Melanie St. Pierre tried to do something about it. "We were told at a government-sponsored meeting about the mine that at that time Germany and Russia were making military weapons with uranium but that Canada and the US didn't have any . . . . We don't know anything about what they do. But we won't take their money because we're thinking of our kids in the future. Maybe they'll make millions of dollars from the mine at Rabbit Lake, but the people at Wollaston don't need it because they're not getting anything . . . . We don't cooperate with those guys . . . . The greatest concern of the mothers today is what the children are going to live on if the water, land, and animals are destroyed."

The consensus of the Elders is that THIS is the LAST generation that will be able to live on Earth, if things keep going the way they are. A lot of Western scientists agree with them. Mother Earth will survive just fine; she survived cataclysmic nuclear explosions in her early history that far surpassed any global nuclear war we could have now, but WE won't make it. There is more to this than the usual doomsday hysteria that the Rationalists love to denigrate. There are all the Prophecies, and the things I hear in the CEREMONIES all over Indian Country. (And there are even non-Indians who are fed up too and are participating in our Ceremonies, our religion, opening up their spiritual awareness.)

The Elders have more to say than just desperate questions about the future. They look to the past as the way to guide us today and tomorrow. They REMEMBER things everyone else has forgotten, heavy shit about the thousands of years that historians bury under words like "pre-historic" and "mythology." I can't in all responsibility spill the beans about most of the extraordinary things I've heard in the Sweat Lodges and elsewhere, and I am not privy to a great deal more that is being kept judiciously secret from such disrespectful worldly-wise Poets like me; but . . . Holy Cow, they are ALL absolutely positive a great catastrophe will happen soon. A Firestorm and Floods. Earthquakes. Volcanoes. Shifting of the Axis. The Aztec calendar pinpoints the beginning of the series of disasters as August 17, 1986. That's what I've heard in reliable quarters. It all relates to the periodic cleansing that goes back and forth between the land and the oceans, and which ties in directly and very precisely with the previous three Ages of Man that the Book of Hopi reveals, that Black Elk and Lame Deer revealed, Fools Crow reveals, and other highly trained oral historians, medicine men, prophets, visionaries, poets, and witches of the Iroquois, Huron, Cherokee, Aymara, Quechua, and Maori Nations have all told me or told people whom I trust. I have questioned their matter-of-fact statements about California going completely under, and Denver too, and the massive loss of innocent lives, but they just shrug and say "That is the way of the Grandfathers." That is the way of Nature. It may come in massive underground pollution, as one water expert replied calmly in reaction to these predictions; or a series of volcanoes such as we've seen recently in Colombia and Sicily and Oregon; earthquakes in China, Mexico, Indonesia. I don't know. But that is the talk all over Indian Country by the quiet, rural Elders.

Indians have always seemed to be waiting for Nature to solve our problems, perhaps because we are so close to Her — those of us who can get out of the rat-race of the cities and towns. I'm not an expert about mythological power and the ways of the Grandfathers and the Spirits, but I believe in them. I KNOW they're working very strongly throughout every aspect of our lives, both present and past and future, but I also believe in doing everything we can too, in the material world. That's our job. So I write rambling essays like this and screwball novels and carry on all over five continents and get in trouble and don't care. I want to see us make a better world for our children, and we can only do that together and not placing all our hope in magical mystical solutions. Sitting Bull would agree with me.

So here's the lowdown, here's our Vision — give the management of our hemisphere back to the Indians. The logistics are enormous, but it can be done. There are a lot of good Indian managers and engineers who have that ingredient of their special spiritual values that are focused on LIMITED AGRICULTURE, MATRILINEAL social and religious structures, FUN with life. We can do it with your help, and you can do it with our help. We have the numbers, the legal titles to enough of the land for a major start on this the "EARTH'S REVOLUTION," the spiritual and moral authority in the eyes of much of the world. You (sensitive Nature-loving non-Indians) have the education, coherence, confidence and money (sometimes!) to give us the much-needed kick of HOPE to pull it off.

I'll give a few more examples of how it can be done. Once I was in South Dakota on the Eagle Butte Rezz looking down the bluffs at the huge Oahe Reservoir with a Sioux engineer and draftsman. He said, "look at that, they dam up the Missouri and flood the bottomland, the only good land for hundreds of miles around here." He said if Indians were in charge they would never have built that dam, and furthermore, he would blow it up if he was in charge. And this was about the most conservative, short-haired, small-town older Indian gentleman you can imagine.

A white rancher got up in front of the Chamber of Commerce in Rapid City one time, and said, "The Forest Service keeps damming up my cow ponds. I'm about ready to let the Indians take over things like they want, like they say they've got the right to in their Treaty. They can't do any worse than we have."

A metallurgical engineer from Pine Ridge once drew up a comprehensive land management program for the Black Hills that still stands as a model in the library of the South Dakota College of Technology, and that engineer and that plan are ready and able to go to work tomorrow showing the confused White Folks how to deal with all those seemingly tricky problems of management.

A group called Women of All Red Nations (WARN) drew up a comprehensive nutrition and health care program a few years back that deeply embarrassed the Indian Health Service of the US with its superior analysis of the critical health problems in our world.

The 1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering brought 14,000 people from Nations all over the world to discuss this proposal I am reiterating now. They laid out a magnificent plan to cover five areas of analysis and strategy:

1.The Citizens Review Commission on Energy Developing Corporations.

2. The Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Farm.

3. Appropriate Technology and Land Self-Sufficiency.

4. Education for Survival.

5. Health for Survival.

We published detailed books on all these plans, and we lived it every day, Indians and non-Indians alike, and we had the Feds scared shitless. We had a lot of decent moderate folks excited too, especially with the enlightened aspects of the Survival Schools for kids, and the harmony among people who are usually suspicious of each other.

It can be done. In Peru the Micaela Bastidas Women's Organization (Tarata 212, Lima 100, Peru) is modeling the Revolution on the principles of M icaela Bastidas, the outstanding Indian heroine of that part of the continent. They say, "Indian philosophy explains the universe as an ongoing transformation of two opposite but necessary and complementary elements represented by men and women. Our efforts are focused currently on four projects: legal and workers rights for women, workshops in art and culture, publications, and a nutrition and food resource project."

We should all plug into them, and they into us. In Chile the conflict between the dictatorship of General Pinochet and grassroots organizations continues to effect the Mapuche Nation, which is a major thorn in the side of the Army and multinational corporations. International pressure for Mapuche leader Jose Santos Millao forced his release after several months of internal exile. Also the Painemal brothers who had been accused of having explosives to blow up power lines were set free.

In Bolivia, subscribe to *Boletin Chitakolla* ($10, Casilla 20214, Correo Central, La Paz, Bolivia) and you'll get the latest on the increasing Indian disputes with government.

In Panama the Kuna Nation is fighting the missionaries and industrial technologies that are the power behind the Canal. The Kuna are actually autonomous and control their own lands! And, lo and behold! they have a healthy subsistence agricultural economy which along with fishing provides most of the food consumed locally, and they have continued coconut production for sale in the cash economy outside the San Blas reserve. The persistence of Kuna cultural traditions is such that molas, the reverse applique cloth panels which form the front and back of women's shirts, are sold to collectors throughout the world, contributing significantly to the Kuna economy. The prohibition against non-Kuna economic enterprises within the reserve means that the modest hotels and other aspects of the tourist trade remain in Kuna hands. Kuna insistence on self-reliance means that most workers in the schools, health centers, and other social agencies are Kunas rather than outsiders. Kunas also work as wage earners in Panama City, on the Panama Canal, and on non-Indian agricultural estates off the reserve, but the integrity of Kuna communities makes it possible for them to maintain community membership and identity, which is often difficult for Indians elsewhere in the Americas who leave home to work in urban areas. The Kunas are a model nation, like Warm Springs in Oregon, but there are still major improvements needed, not the least of which is confidence-building through encouragement from other peoples.

In Mexico, there is the Zapotec-Chinantec newspaper *Topil* (c/o Miguel Cabrera, 351-1 C.P., Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico).

In Colombia, the government bombed the villages of Caldono, Corinto, Jambalo, and Tacueyo in its tactics against alleged rural guerrillas in the militarized Cauca region. The worsening situation of Indian communities was also demonstrated by the death of Maximiliano Quiguanas, the president of the local cooperative, and an anti-imperialist ("Whether they are Capitalists or Communtists, they're all CAPICOMS to us") who was killed while working in his garden.

In Ecuador, 50% of the population is Indian — 7 million Indians. The 13 Indian Nations are in three distinct regions united under the Federacion de Centros Shuar (Apartado 4122, Quito, Ecuador) in the jungle area bordering on Peru — the oldest Indian organization of this type in South America. They are fighting Ecuamina, Shell, and Texaco. On the Pacific coast, large lumber companies continue indiscriminate logging operations. On the eastern side of the Andes, drilling for petroleum and the discarding of waste chemicals and other materials in the rivers has caused extensive contamination of the rivers and soil. Many Indian communities are affected by these practices as their water becomes unpotable and fish, a major food supply, are killed. Also, new illnesses have been on the rise. For example, between the coastal and mountain region where the Chachi

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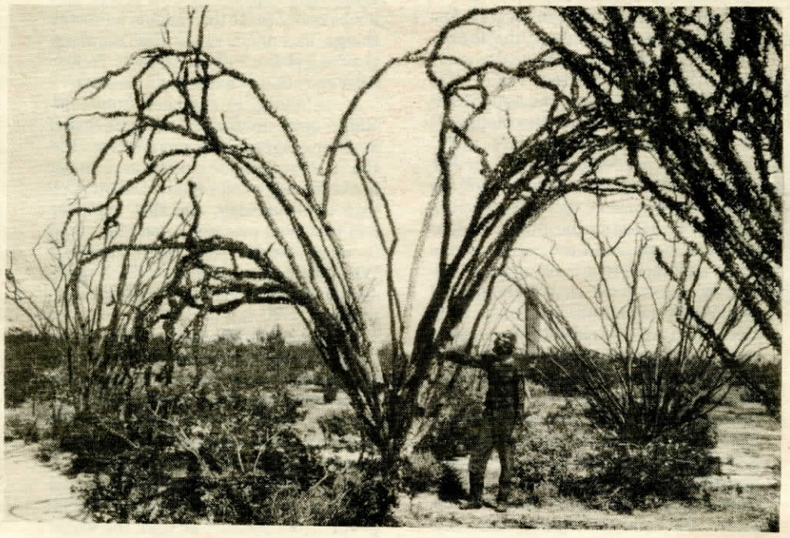
How Are Tropical Deforestation And Desertification Affecting Plant Genetic Resources?

by Gary Nabhan



Both rainforest destruction and drought-related but man-made problems in dry lands are often in the news these days. While the biological depletion associated with tropical deforestation is implicit in most accounts, oftentimes soil erosion rather than genetic erosion is cited as the most significant long-term effect of desertification. The following commentary has been written toward remedying that oversight, comparing the deserts and moist tropics in terms of their plant resources.

There can be no doubt that the accelerating conversion of moist tropical forests is about the most alarming kind of ecological destruction on Earth today. Not only do these ancient communities contain many undescribed plants that are threatened with extinction, but two to three dozen coevolved animal species may be endangered per plant when certain tropical trees are lost.

We are therefore witnessing the wasting away of more than just scattered plant species, for long-evolved ecological relationships are vulnerable as well. Entire genera and key links in particular food chains have been lost as over half the land area once covered by moist tropical vegetation has already been connverted. Whether turned into cow pastures, lumber plantation or degraded second growth, it is a mere shadow of what the rainforest once was. The Global 2000 report suggested that a million kinds of moist tropical forest organisms will not last until the turn of the century if deforestation continues at its present rate. [*Ed. note: Recent studies, such as the one mentioned in the Nemesis News Net of this issue, suggest that we will lose far more than a million species by the turn of the century if present trends continue.*]

Conservationists have voiced several arguments against this devastation. One of their attempts to arouse the public on this issue is by claiming that this loss of biological diversity can be measured as a loss of the richest source of genetic resources useful for human welfare.

For instance, the International Institute for Environment and Development recommends that we must "put a value on forests." It suggests that the economic worth of genetic resources found within intact forests may be one measure that politicians and planners can be taught to understand. Following suit, admirable science writers such as Norman Myers and Catherine Caufield have stressed that tropical rainforests are "the [primary] source of undiscovered foods, medicines and materials" which, if destroyed, will drive society's agricultural economy toward "genetic bankruptcy" (Caufield).

There are many reasons to protect large reserves of minimally degraded forests. These reasons have been raised by the many involved legal actions, economic boycotts, and non-violent civil disobedience that attempt to slow absentee-owned companies in their logging and grazing the life out of these habitats. But as a student of plants suitable for forms of sustainable agriculture far more "benevolent" than those from which most of us eat today, I feel queasy about emphasizing this "food and pharmaceutical storehouse" argument for saving rainforests. For one reason, the loss of genetic resources may be far more pervasive in intermediate arid lands than in moist tropical forests. By not challenging the truism that the rainforest's biological diversity will translate into the richest source of plant genetic diversity beneficial to modern society, I sense that we are selling the deserts short, and misunderstanding the rainforest at the same time.

Let's compare the moist tropical forests with drier lands. This is seldom done. Tropical forests are inevitably compared with temperate forests, I suppose, for the benefit of those in Washington, Bonn and London. Global climatic classifications hierarchically sort out the temperate and tropical zones on the basis of temperature, arbitrarily dividing up a third of the world's land surface where moisture, not temperature, is most limiting to life. Deserts which cohesively extend from cool temperate to hot tropical climes get lost in the statistical shuffle.

Estimates vary, but one reliable source suggests that true tropical rainforest covers 17 million square kilometers, while desert scrub (including intermediate desert and degraded semi-desert) covers 18 million square kilometers. Another 7.5 million square kilometers lies in tropical drought-deciduous forest, but extreme dry desert covers even more — an additional 8.5 million square kilometers. Plant communities adapted to dry climates clearly cover more of the global land surface than do those adapted to hot moist climates.

Of course, areal extent is not the best indicator of importance. Net primary plant productivity of a hectare of rainforest is roughly four times that of the same area covered by desert scrub. Many rainforests house 50 to 200 species of trees, vines and epiphytes per hectare, with exceptional stands peaking at 750 species of plants. In desert scrub, finding 30 to 50 plant species per hectare is rare but possible during a wildflower bloom in an exceptionally rainy season. When soil moisture is more limited, 10 to 15 species of shrubs and succulents may be the only cover apparent over kilometers of desert. Another 20 to 30 ephemeral herbs may still be in reserve in the soil during droughts, for unlike moist tropical floras, desert plants invest in seed dormancy.

Despite these differences, there are some similarities between rainforest and desert. There is high endemism in both. Additional species may be found over a wide geographic range, but in miniscule patches within this range. They may depend on coevolved pollinators, seed dispersers or fruit detoxifiers that are tightly specialized on one or two plant species.

But what about characteristics which relate more directly to plant genetic resources and their presumed vulnerability? One of the most striking differences between these two biomes is in their lifeform diversity. Ecologists R. M. May and T. Givnish have demonstrated that desert vegetation is the most diverse and rainforests the least diverse in Raunkiaer lifeforms or plant architectural strategies for reproduction. Nearly all moist tropical forest species are woody-trunked plants which place their fruits or seeds high above the ground before letting them loose for dispersal. Desert lifeforms range from deep-rooted trees to columnar cacti, dwarf shrubs and rhizomatously-propagating yuccas, through tuber-bearing herbs and vines, to root parasites, short-lived bellyflowers and rock-mimicking succulents.

Whereas the tropical agroforester has few growthforms but many tree species from which to choose, desert agroecologists are actively investigating the genetic resources of water-efficient cacti, drought-evading annuals, drought-escaping perennial tubers and salt-tolerant shrubs. Of this latter category alone, hundreds of species of halophytes from coastal deserts are now being evaluated as new crops, while the moist tropical coastlines of the world have hardly contributed any crop candidates for saline agriculture. Since salt build-up on farmlands has become a problem of global magnitude, even a few successful candidates could salvage the productivity of millions of hectares of degraded fields, rather than forcing the cultivation of additional wildlands.

Yet can such plants contribute to the world food supply? Desert floras seem particularly well-endowed with non-toxic seeds rich in oil, protein, and hygroscropic fibers. The Sonoran Desert of Mexico and the US harbors 450 edible plant species, 20% of its flora. Particular moist tropical floras are also high in the number of edible plants, but perhaps their percent contribution is relatively lower.

My own research has shown that intermediate arid lands are the homes of a high number of crop wild relatives. In the arid Americas, we find that wild beans, sunflowers, amaranths, potatoes, maniocs, gourds, prickly pears and agaves are sources of genes for resistance to drought, heat, pests and diseases. The Old World deserts have contributed wild wheats, barleys, melons, watermelons, millets, sorghums and many pulses. In fact, desert fringes appear to be the cradles of seed agriculture in part because of their diversity of species of economic annuals.

Evolutionary ecologists have long-recognized that the transition from true desert to semi-arid lands is intrinsically diverse. There are greater numbers of species per genus, and more complex variation within species found in this transition zone than in either wetter or drier adjacent areas.

As genetic conservationist Jose Esquinas-Alcazar has observed, "The arid intermediate regions are the laboratories in which many new adaptive complexes of plant groups are produced, while the arid extreme regions become the museums in which . . . relictual species are preserved."

Ironically, this diverse transition zone is exactly where desertification is taking its greatest toll, as poor management diminishes the soil moisture-holding capacity and plant productivity, creating a more arid landscape. The United Nations Environment Program estimates that 6 million hectares of semi-arid or subhumid land is annually reduced to desert-like conditions. Within true, hot deserts, another 21 million hectares is annually reduced to minimal cover, or to sweeping sands. As a result, we are seeing the genetic wipe-out of populations, and in some cases, entire species of agaves, barleys, sunflowers, prickly pears, millets, beans, potatoes, and wheats.

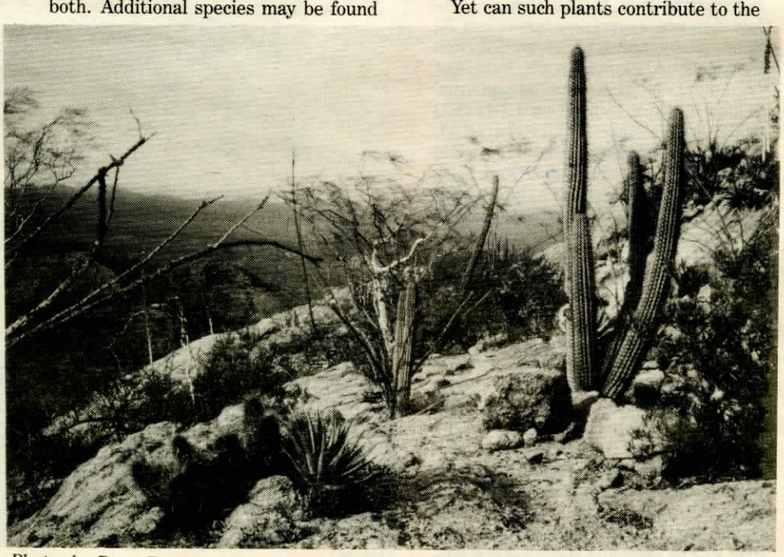
The extent of disturbance in the moist tropics is roughly the same, and no less tragic. About 5.6 million hectares of rainforest and drought-deciduous forest is being completely eliminated every year. Another 20 million hectares of moist tropics is annually being degraded.

Most rainforest and desert countries currently suffer from poor distribution of wealth and power, and high human population growth rates which will increasingly stress their plant cover, among other things. The population of dry lands will rise from the present 850 million people to 1.2 billion in the year 2000. This growth rate is in part due to immigration of people from humid climates to drier ones. A increasingly large percentage of this population will come totally ignorant of the water constraints in their new home. They will expect the arid regions to feed them as well as their humid parent-lands have. Yet their land clearing, fuelwood use, grazing and urbanization will continue to deplete the very plants which have the genes to make their food economy more water-use efficient.

Instead of utilizing drought-hardy plant resources, arid lands dwellers are attempting to squeeze more water out of the deserts than they have. Remaining riparian and oasis plants will be adversely affected. Whatever pockets of plants that still survive around springs, artesian seeps, floodplains and canyon streams will be threatened by plans for dams and aquifer mining.

As with the tropical forests, botanists have offered the desert's genetic resources as a reason to preserve such places, for they offer potential benefits to human welfare. Yet there may be differences in the relative contributions to food versus chemical industries that the deserts and moist topics offer.

The intermediate arid lands are somewhat richer in herbaceous annual and perennial seed plants that are closely related to field crops already grown on several continents. There are already public repositories of such germ plasm, and their benefits are likely to be par-



Photos by Dave Foreman.

tially passed on to the small-scale farmer.

The rainforests are relatively richer in plants capable of rapid vegetative propagation, particularly specialty fruits and pharmaceutical precursors. Multinational genetic engineering firms have already funded private expeditions to obtain these tropical materials in order to see if their products are suitable for laboratory tissue culture. Any patented medicines or high-value fruits that suit themselves to such biotechnological endeavors are less likely to directly benefit indigenous tropical peoples from whose lands this germplasm has been obtained. They may permanently leave the rainforest behind for a life confined to the petri dish.

Let us look at the plants now at risk on one particular land area that has both rainforest and desert — Australia. The Cape York region of Queensland possesses a rich Indo-Malaysian forest, with at least 159 plant species at risk. On the opposite side of the island continent, the desert state of Western Australia has 936 species at risk — 45% of all the plants at risk in the entire country.

Compared to the tropical Cape York region, Western Australia has 5.8 times the number of plants at risk scattered over roughly nine times the land area. Thus, the rainforest can be said to have a greater concentration of known plants at risk per unit area, but neither flora has been completely explored. Ecologists Good and Lavarack suggest that Western Australia's number may rise even higher, since the number of uncollected, undescribed rare species there is probably high. Vulnerable species are no doubt being lost due to the moderate desertification in the intermediate arid vegetation that covers much of Western Australia, and the severe degradation occurring in its semi-arid pockets.

In my opinion, the hidden utilitarian treasures of these plant communities should not be the major argument for preserving them. Following ecologist David Ehrenfield, I feel we must stress the intrinsic right of any lifeform to exist regardless of its perceived worth. We must also reiterate the life support services offered by these ecosystems as wholes, including their role in climatic stabilization, watershed buffering from floods and erosion, and other less-tangible functions.

Currently, there are less than 50 biosphere reserves of any size in each of these biomes. These are not enough to adequately represent the various habitat or community types found within either the desert or the rainforest. They are entirely inadequate to conserve even a small percentage of the genetic variation found within the most useful, widespread plant species, let alone the obscure, localized endemics.

If we have any obligation to future generations of our species or of others, it is to protect any sizeable tracts of deserts and rainforest that remain. These lands need to be managed in a way which allows plant evolution to continue. This cannot happen if we siimply collect the remaining representative species and lock them up in a liquid nitrogen gene bank. Unless we want to see ourselves swept away with the draining of their gene pools, we must become the plugs that keep the fullness of this planet's life from being emptied.

Dr. Gary Nabhan is a cofounder of Native Seeds/SEARCH, in Tucson, Arizona, and author of the highly acclaimed ***Gathering the Desert.***

Wagon Wilderness

by George Wuerthner

One often hears from anti-wilderness people that Wilderness designation discriminates against those who can't hike, kayak, ski or otherwise travel in wilderness by unmotorized means. (This argument is seldom expounded by handicapped people themselves — one usually finds that logging companies, mining companies, and snowmobilers make such compassionate pleas on behalf of those less fortunate.) Most wilderness advocates realize that, with few exceptions, such arguments are bogus. There are many wild places where a short hike up a flat trail will get anyone away from the roads and crowds. There are rivers where people can, with assistance, float and enjoy unsullied natural areas.

I have another alternative, to deal with the issue of access to wilderness, that could be considered: The creation of large wildernesses which include not only the rugged mountains, but also the intervening valleys. In many areas, dirt logging roads already bisect otherwise roadless country. These roads could be closed to motorized traffic, yet remain open for horse drawn wagons.

For example, the Lost River and Lemhi Ranges in Idaho fit this criteria. The mountains are on the Challis National Forest and the valley lands, except for limited private inholdings, are BLM controlled. Taken together there are some 875,000 acres of roadless country within the two mountain ranges. This, combined with the BLM lands in the valley, would provide for wilderness in excess of one million acres. The private inholdings, primarily ranches, could continue to operate, perhaps switching over to dude ranching, to provide housing and staging areas for explorers.

There are presently dirt roads in this area, but no through paved road. These roads would be maintained as access trails. Horse drawn wagons would provide access to those unable to walk. In addition, once this area was set aside as Wilderness, we could re-introduce bison (brucellosis free) to join the antelope, deer, bighorn sheep, and elk that now roam these ranges. Domestic livestock should be eliminated from all public lands so that wildlife can prosper and once again inhabitat the valleys. The Pahsimeroi River at the north end of the valley has runs of steelhead and once had immense salmon runs. Imagine being an 80-year-old person riding in a wagon up a valley that looks much as it did 100 years ago, with salmon splashing in the river, bison bellowing across the valley, and wolves howling in the distance.

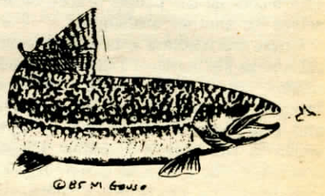
There are other areas where such a proposal would also work. The Gravelly Range-Snowcrest area of Montana already has several dirt roads winding through it with large roadless areas between. Combining these roadless areas into one large Wilderness would create more than 500,000 acres of wild land that could once again be dedicated to elk, bison, antelope, deer and grizzly. (A grizzly was trapped here in 1984.) Several roadless areas in north central Idaho and straddling the Montana border in the Upper Clearwater River drainage have logging roads which could serve as access. This area could be united into a better than 600,000 acre Wilderness. The area in the Copper Basin, Trail Creek, Pioneer Mountains-White Cloud Peaks on the Challis National Forest could be another huge Wilderness a million and a half acres in size if we included the valleys, keeping existing roads for wagon use, and closing them to motorized travel. The beautiful canyon country of the Escalante and Waterpocket Fold, dissected by the Burr Trail, is another area with an existing dirt road which could be left open as a non-motorized trailway. The surrounding roadless country would be designated Wilderness.

In each of these areas, concessionaires could provide the necessary wagon access. Others would be free to hike, ski, or ride horses in these same places. Imagine the thrill people could experience by riding in a wagon back into such a wild place.

I don't propose making roads where none exist now, but there are many essentially intact roadless areas separated by a few dirt roads which could be combined into large Wildernesses including the intervening valleys which have been left out of almost all our Wilderness proposals. Why not unite these roadless areas, leave in the roads as trails, and gain support by helping those people less fortunate to experience wild places also?

If wilderness groups began to advocate such "wagon" Wildernesses for the handicapped it would help to alter the view of many people that wild places are only for the young and fit, and would make supporters of a large segment of society which may now feel disenfranchised by Wilderness designation. As our population's average age increases, having Wilderness areas that are accessible to those past their prime in fitness may be the key to preserving the wild places we have.

George Wuerthner is one of the most innovative wilderness thinkers in the US and is, perhaps, the most deeply ecological member of the Montana Wilderness Alliance board of directors.



GOURD (cont)

Indians live, mosquitos now carry an illness that causes blindness. Often these mining, petroleum, and logging companies are backed by the Ecuadorian government. CIA involvement in all these companies is a common conception among Indians down there.

The list goes on and on. Groups and newsletters flourish, but I think the SAIIC is the best (South American Indian Information Center, POB 7550, Berkeley, CA 94707 - USA (415-521-2779). The International Indian Treaty Council has offices in San Francisco and at the UN in New York, and participated in the fourth session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva, Switzerland, last summer. The meetings brought together more than 100 indigenous representatives who exchanged ideas, drafted a new Declaration of Principles on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted other joint proposals and "achieved an unprecedented level of unity in relation to the Working Groups" (according to SAIIC).

Among those participating were the Union of Indigenous Nations of Brazil; AIDESEP of Peru; CONFENIAE of Ecuador; CIDOB of Bolivia; Centro Chitakolla of Bolivia; The National Federation of Land Councils of Australia; the Center for Tribal Conscientization of India; Confederation Campesina del Peru; the South American Indian Council; CORPI (Central America); Movemiento de la Juventud Kuna of Panama; MISURASATA of Nicaragua; Coalition of First Nations, the Dine Nation, the Union of Ontario Indians, the Conne River Micmacs and many others of Canada; Indian Law Resource Center; Inuit Circumpolar Conference; National Indian Youth Council; Four Directions Council; and National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services.

So you can see there are a lot of organizations, and a lot of Indians, doing a lot of things, and yet . . . things just keep getting worse for all of us. Why? With all these sincere and hard-working people, why are we still freezing to death in shacks in New Mexico and starving to death in barrios in San Salvador? The REAL people out in the districts will tell you it's getting worse. Only the well-paid tribal councilmen and councilwomen say things are getting better. Who's telling the truth?

Maybe it all comes back around in a big circle and we're in Arizona again, on the sacred mountain near Flagstaff, in the Grand Canyon where the world began, on the sacred Hopi mesas where the Badger and Bird and Snake and Lizard Clans emerged after the Flood and the migrations from the South Pacific. Maybe I better end this essay, this plea, by quoting the Hopi Elders themselves:

We, the traditional Elders of the Hopi Independent Nation, are joining you to humbly request the Creator's assistance. We pray that our united effort will bear fruit for the benefit of all land and life, which increasingly are threatened by total destruction. May we be granted the wisdom to return to the divine laws and instructions revealed long ago, when the Creator, through his love, gave us the gift of life. This gift was meant equally for all, with no room for the injustice, hatred and greed today poisoning our world. Let us rid ourselves of this terrible curse of personal gain at the expense of others, for if we do not cleanse ourselves a higher power will soon perform for us the work of purification.

We have passed through many ages, sometimes becoming lost on the wrong path. The uncountable millions brutally destroyed in the wars of this century clearly indicate we have lost our way. Something is deeply wrong with our present way of life. Therefore, now is the time when world leaders must exemplify the harmonious, harmless way of life intended by the Creator. Now is the most critical period in humanity's existence since the destruction of a previous world. If we do not return quickly to a spiritual way of life, this world, too, will soon be destroyed.

The Hopi know, however, that if our peaceful, traditional way of life can be maintained, there is still hope for world peace. Hopi means 'peaceful ones,' and the traditional way, our life-plan given to us by the Great Spirit, is a model for people everywhere. Living practice of these revealed instructions will maintain a peaceful and harmonious world. On the other hand, destruction of the traditional Hopi way, of the sacred land entrusted to us by the Great Spirit, will in turn trigger the destruction of the world. We recognize that there are many peoples represented in the United Nations, each endowed with their own unique culture and tradition, but the original instructions of the Creator are universal and valid for all time. The essence of these instructions is compassion for all life and love for all creation. We must realize that we do not live in a world of dead matter, but in a universe of living spirit. Let us open our eyes to the sacredness of Mother Earth, or our eyes will opened for us.

Hopi prophecy foresaw World War I and II. It now warns of a third world war fought with 'the gourd full of ashes,' the ancient prophecy's expression for the atomic and hydrogen bomb. This last, most terrible war will soon occur if the arms-race continues. Every nation on earth must ask itself whether it is contributing to the imminent destruction of humanity, either through indifference, or through misguided nationalism. Let us not tempt the Creator to punish us with the very weapons we so perversely invented . . . .

The Great Spirit revealed this land to be a spiritual center and we must all share responsibility for preserving it as a sanctuary for all life.

We await your response. We close our letter with blessings and hope for the future. Let us begin to heal ourselves and our Mother Earth. On behalf of the Traditional Community of Hotevilla Village, Sovereign Hopi Independent Nation.

David Seals is a highly acclaimed writer, editor, and Indian activist. His novel, THE POWWOW HIGHWAY, is available for $4.50 paperback from Sky/Makhpeya, Box 18434, Denver, CO 80218.

Suburbanizing the Bush

by Judy Price

In fall of 1985, when Alaska Governor Bill Sheffield was fresh off the hot seat of a Grand Jury investigation and impeachment hearing, he went around the State doing little things to make the peasants happy, to help them forget that he'd been giving multi-million dollar state contracts to his political cronies. One of these token gestures of appeasement was to go to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Anchorage and personally draw the names of the State's land lottery winners before TV cameras.

That shouldn't be a surprise. Empires and kings have been using that technique to placate the peasants for centuries — give them land, though not the empire's land. It is a technique also used to conquer the native people whose lands have been offered to someone else. England gave northern Ireland to the Scots and its own war veterans; Georgia gave the lands of the Cherokee Nation to white lottery winners; the UN gave Palestine to the Jews to make up for the wrongs that Europeans had done them; the Russians gave the Alaska Natives' country to the US for a price.

Sheffield drew the names of the lucky sweepstakes winners and dozens of men and women became owners of their own piece of Alaska. And in the small bush communities, which have been selected to bear the brunt of the State's real estate business, the people braced themselves for another onslaught.

Chase is a roadless area in southcentral Alaska just north of Talkeetna. Back before the trans-Alaska pipeline brought riches to the State's treasury and every greedhead in the western world to the State's doorstep, Chase was settled by a diverse assemblage of drop-outs, refugees from the Southeast Asian wars, and other ne'er-do-wells. They came looking for a reasonable way of life and a healthy place to live it. As a loose-knit, bush comumunity, they found it here.

The hundred or so people who live at Chase depend on the land for many of their survival needs. And they depend on themselves. Unlike urbanites, they do not ask the government for money to provide "services" to do the work of living for them. When it snows three feet in a week, they do not expect the State to send a snowplow through. They go out on snowshoes and pack the trails themselves. They cut firewood, haul water, and obtain much of their food from the land around them. They are not on the community welfare roles, and they are proud of that.

At present, the Chase community is not dependent on the State's oil revenues for support precisely because it has a sufficient land base to provide wood, water, salmon and other renewable resources to sustain a reasonable human population in perpetuity. But like many other bush communities in Alaska, it is targeted for destruction by the State's new land use policy of "concentrated settlement."

"Concentrated settlement" is designed to compartmentalize people from the resource use areas around them — one area for human habitation, one for timber management, one for mining, one for recreation — joined by a web of connector roads. It is an urban planner's dream, everything neatly categorized; and it is exactly the opposite of the settlement patterns that have evolved since humans crossed the Bering land bridge.

In places like Chase, people live scattered far enough apart to be able to get the resources that sustain them near their homes, without the need for expensive, destructive road systems. Now people can pull their firewood in on small sleds, pack their moose in on their backs. Under the new settlement policy, they will be forced to live "concentrated" in one area, and the purchase and use of gas-guzzling, petrochemical puking machines will be a necessity to perform tasks of survival.

As much as the designers of this plan may wish it could, the state cannot demand that all rural residents of an area immediately pack up and move into the State's concentration camps, leaving the remaining land for resource development projects. So the policy of concentrated settlement, by encouraging roads and locating "land disposals" in areas where people now live, is designed to bring the concentration camps to the people.

This will be accomplished through the land disposal program by giving priority to selling recreational parcels with "proximity to water, views, good hunting, or interesting topography." "High priority" will also be given to resource development projects like mining and dam construction camps, and there will be additional land provided for the sole purpose of investment. But land for "year-round, self-sufficient remote" living "will not be a high priority." Where land for this purpose is offered, it will be distributed only in small parcels so that the common lands around it, needed for hunting and trapping and other subsistence activities, can be withdrawn at any time for other, more important purposes. In this unsettling "settlement" policy, the existence of the traditional way of life in Alaska is considered only temporary, and offering land for people to live this way is considered a practice "based entirely on short-term considerations." In his recently published book, *Village Journey*, Thomas R. Berger writes, "Here in rural Alaska is a way of life that contributes to the health of individuals, keeps families on the land, and contributes to the integrity of the Village. Yet it is said to be dying because it does not represent our ideas of progress." Berger is speaking specifically of the natives of Alaska, but the truth of his statement applies to other land-based communities as well. Living off the land is still the most economically viable, environmentally sound, healthy and sustainable way of life in Alaska; and it is thriving. The supposition that it cannot survive is the result of ignorance and arrogance; ignorance of the reality about susistence living, and arrogance of the dominating culture's presumption of superiority.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), passed by Congress in 1971, is largely the result of those attitudes. Under the Act, the Natives' ancestral lands were given to corporations. Suddenly the lands that traditionally had been used for subsistence were expected to make an economic profit for the corporations. The resources that kept the people alive were expected to be sold off for money. If that marketing venture failed, the corporations would go bankrupt and Natives would lose their lands. If it succeeded, Natives would retain title to the land but the resources that sustain them would be lost. The Natives would get dividends, paper dollars to make up for the moose and fish and furs they could no longer get. Let them eat dividends.

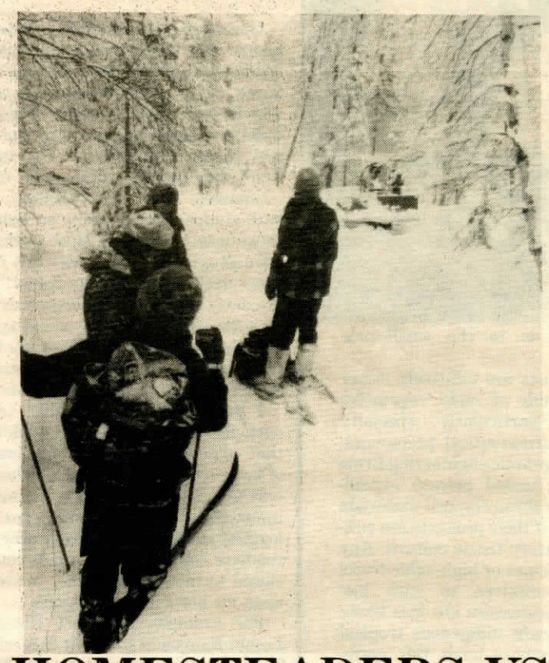
ANCSA was a large-scale attempt at "social engineering" to direct the native peoples of Alaska into another way of life. It was not due entirely to evil intentions, but merely based on the erroneous assumption that a subsistence way of life could not, perhaps should not, survive, and on the assumption that urban-style, corporate-dependent living was superior and more durable than the land-based way of life that has sustained humans from time immemorial.

It is that conviction that has allowed even well-meaning people to contribute to the destruction of land-based people. The acceptance of the inevitability of a thing allows them to commit the acts that accomplish it without admitting responsibility. It allows them the freedom to discriminate against a way of life and a group of people without feeling guilt.

Discrimination against land-based people in Alaska is common, though the press shies away from it like it was a smallpox blanket. The Natives know it; the whites who live in the bush know it. The Senate Rural Research Agency recognized it in its report on State Land Policy, stating that "the desires of urban recreation seekers (are valued) above the needs of people using the land for traditional economic pursuits," and "when 'statewide' demand butts up against local needs and desires, the compromise that will almost inevitably be reached will recognize the desires of urban Alaskans." Certainly this has proven to be true. "Pressure" from urban dwellers for recreational lots in the woods are a part of the reason for the State's aggressive actions. But to a much greater extent, the Yuppies (Young Urban Professionals Performing for Industries of Exploitation) are being used as an excuse for wiping out bush communities when the real purpose is to give DNR's Resource Pimps control over the land and resources without interference or opposition from the land-based peasants. And the Yuppies, ignorant and arrogant, are being used as well to perform and justify the act of dispossession.

Like native communities, land-based, primarily-white communities such as Chase get in the way of the Earth rapers. Chase people have been battling the State's destructive projects for years — wilderness subdivisions, the massive Susitna Dam project, coal exploration, strip mining. Just as the first group to bring suit against the Alaska oil pipeline was not environmentalists, but the Athabascan trappers of Stevens Village, the people who stopped the Alaska Railroad's herbicide spraying were not recreationists, but the scruffy, working-class residents of Chase. Land-based people have always fought for the land, and they have not always limited their battles to the administrative, legislative, and legal channels that the State provides to consume their time, energy, and money. They fight long and hard because they are fighting for their lives.

On the other hand, property owners who do not live on the land, but only



HOMESTEADERS VS. MAD-DOG DOZER

by Paul Bratton

In February 1985, a mad-dog placer miner attempted to use traditional Chase access trails to move a dozer to a proposed strip mine located on the banks of the region's most valuable anadromous spawning stream. With no attempt to obtain state permits or inform the Chase Community Council of his plans, the miner thought he was going to run his cat wherever he damned well pleased.

The dozer stalled repeatedly as it slid from side to side in six feet of packed snow on what had been a well-maintained winter trail, destroying the only access available for a dozen remote residents. After using a C.B. network to alert state officials, Chase residents and members of Alaska Survival traveled to the scene by snowshoes, skis and snow machine to blockade the miner's route. During a tense hour-long confrontation, a half dozen bush dwellers continually placed their bodies in the path of the dozer. At one point I was immobilized by being buried to the waist in the snow berm at the leading edge of the dozer blade and was then shoved backwards several feet by the blade itself.

Finally realizing that the terror tactics would not work, the miners shut down their equipment and retreated to the nearest bar. Chase residents remained on guard until state officials arrived five hours later to issue the miner a cease and desist order. The following day the state agency charged with regulating mining expedited the issuance of the necessary permits, but Chase residents counted an important victory by putting miners on notice that their depredations will not go unopposed at Chase.

recreate there are unlikely to do more than raise a few polite environmental questions when the land is threatened, and be satisfied with the answers, because they have so little at stake; they can always go somewhere else to recreate. It is obvious from this that it would be in the best interest of the Resource Pimps to encourage the right sort of people to buy the land, and where the wrong sort live in a place already, to encourage them to move.

DNR has attempted this by numerous disposals at Chase, but so far they have not completely succeeded in destroying the resident community. Although nearly a thousand parcels have already been "disposed" of in this area, the people who buy them — the ones creating this enormous "pressure" — do not want to live there. They want to own a piece of Alaska to satisfy some dream or their interest in investments; maybe come in a couple times a year, cut down trees for a cabin, shoot a bear that threatens them by its very existence, stand agog over the peace and quiet of the place, and then go back to their office jobs and condominiums in Anchorage. They are somewhat destructive, but so far they have not been dedicated enough to do tremendous damage. So DNR has had to re-think its strategy, and this time it has come up with something that might really do the trick, the Chase III Agriculture Homestead.

In the mid-eighteenth century, the English parliament issued "Bills of Enclosures" to usurp the common lands which enabled small cottagers to survive. For many people "enclosure meant no land on which to grow subsistence crops to feed their families, no grazing land to produce wool for home spinning and weaving, no fuel to heat their cottages, and new restriction against hunting. It meant, in short, deprivation of a major source of subsistence for the poor." (From *Regulating the Poor; The Functions of Public Welfare*, by Piven and Cloward.)

For the people of Chase, Chase III would have similar effects. The loss of 4000 acres of common land in the very heart of the community which is used for hunting, trapping, wood cutting, and access trails would be bad enough. But the special elements of ruin that DNR has attached to it, makes this disposal particularly devastating.

Although Chase voted unanimously to remain a "roadless" area, DNR flew a helicopter over in order to identify routes for the new landowners' roads. And exclusively for Chase (never has this been done in any other area for any other disposal) residents' traditional trails within the area of the disposal are ordered to be vacated. In addition, devastation is built into Chase III — the proving up requirements for agricultural homesteads.

As has happened in other areas of Alaska where agriculture has suddenly been unleashed on virgin lands, bulldozers will be brought in to chain down and push the trees into windrows to burn. Farm machinery will be brought in to plow up the topsoil. There is no requirement that the purchaser ever live on the land, no requirement to replant for crops or erosion control. But the land must be clearcut and broken; that is State law. In order to earn this land, the lottery winners must destroy it. That is why not one person who lives at Chase entered the Chase III lottery.

In 1983, after Bill Sheffield was sworn in as Governor of Alaska, his first official act was to drop the State's law suit against federal oil leasing in Norton Sound. The second was to fly to Texas with his newly-appointed Commissioner of DNR, Esther Wunnicke, and his Attorney General. There he accepted $200,000 from oil companies and their minions which he deposited into his personal account to repay himself for a loan he had made to his own gubernatorial campaign. Over the past three years, it has become obvious that the Sheffield administration sold out not only the wealth and welfare of the Eskimo communities that ring Norton Sound, but the resources of Alaska in general.

The State's new land use policy is a reflection of that. It does not concern itself with assuring the health of the land, or communities, or people themselves, but with getting everyone out of the way, preferably concentrated in urban centers, unattached and uncaring of the land, so that the resources can be exploited with as little interference as possible. Right now, DNR is telling the people of southcentral Alaska that there is not enough firewood to meet their needs. At the same time, it is trying to get a state forest designated in the area to encourage an industrial-forestry chipping operation for export to Pacific Rim nations. They are telling the people of Chase that there is not enough land for them to continue trapping and hunting, while selling off thousands of acres of Chase land for investment properties and leasing thousands of acres for gold dredging and strip mining. The Sheffield administration is selling (in most cases, practically giving away) the resources of Alaska to multinational corporations while it is chastising the land-based people with "wanting too much."

What will happen at Chase is uncertain except that the people there will continue to resist. The law suit that they, as Alaska Survival, filed against the State to stop Chase III was lost in the lower court, and subsequently appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court. As another of its little extras that DNR reserves for Chase, the State requested, and won in the lower court, a precedent-setting $10,400 judgment for the State's legal fees. Admitted by State officials to be a vindictive action, it was taken to discourage further interference from the peasants. However, that will not stop the Chase people from fighting back. And if the Supreme Court goes against them, they say, that will not stop them either.

Already many white residents of bush communities have run nearly to the ends of the earth. Some of them are refugees from the Vietnam War, some from the devastation of the homes they left behind, all from the general debilitating madness of the industrialized world. They have gathered here in Alaska, the last frontier. They have no place left to go.

For the land-based people of Chase and Norton Sound and Stevens Village, and the plains of New Mexico and the dark hollows of Appalachia, there is only one life worth living, the one that comes from the land. It sustains the spirit as well as the flesh, giving health and pride and joy of life. For these people who do not have a lot of money or college diplomas, the alternative to making a living from the land is to join the diseased and dispirited masses suffocating on the bottom of corporate America's cultureless cesspool. That is no choice at all. They will continue to fight, forever. And we had all better pray that they win.

Judy Price lives in Talkeetna, Alaska.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
What You Don't Know Could Bankrupt You

by Paul Bratton

Whether it's a neighborhood group fighting high-density housing or the Sierra Club opposing off-shore oil leasing, environmental lawsuits fall into the category of "public interest" litigation. Such litigation often seeks to enforce regulations and establish standards where a government agency has failed to act within the law. If the suit is successful, society as a whole benefits from the court's enforcement of the laws designed to protect public and community resources. Only if the case is determined to be "frivolous" — that is it does not raise serious questions of law or fact — is the losing public interest litigant held liable for the other side's attorney's fees.

This is a greatly simplified version of the legal theories involved, but it is probably all you will need to know if you get involved in litigation as a member of your local lady's garden club. However, if you can be associated with the various species of obnoxious riffraff that subscribe to the *Earth First!* journal, the court may apply different standards to your litigation. Just because you are playing by the rules they created and challenging agency illegalities through proper channels does not mean you will receive the benefit of their rules. Those not content to "agree to disagree" with the earth-rapers may find that unwelcome resistance is liable to be crushed by fair means or foul.

A long line of Alaska Supreme Court cases has held that "it is an abuse of (the trial judge's) discretion to award attorney's fees against a losing party who has in good faith raised a question of genuine public interest before the courts." (Gilbert v State 526 P.2d 1131) However these firm precedents have not stopped trial judges from awarding massive attorney's fees awards against environmental litigants in two recent cases.

A few years back, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) lost a court challenge of a state timber plan in the Haines area. In that case the trial judge awarded a private timber company (that had intervened supporting the state plan) $25,000 for their attorney's fees. Eventually the State Supreme Court rejected the judgment (SEACC v State 665 P.2d 552), but in the interim SEACC was forced to divert scarce resources to fight that award.

Last March, Alaska Survival lost a decision in the lower court in a challenge to state land disposal plans. (See accompanying article.) In an extremely unusual move for a case of this type, the state's attorney general sought and was awarded attorney's fees. Enforcement of that $10,420 judgment is now stayed pending the decision of the Supreme Court on the appeal.

Since Alaska Survival, like EF!, is a grassroots disorganization and is not incorporated, it was necessary for individual members to sign on as plaintiffs to provide the "standing" necessary to litigate. Six individuals now have that judgment hanging over them. Our attorneys are confident that the Supreme Court will once again reverse the decision, but the state, intent on crushing resistance to administration policies, is fighting hard to establish a precedent.

Alaska, with one lawyer for every 250 residents, is an extremely litigious state. With two in-state environmental law firms — Trustees for Alaska and the Juneau office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund — and a number of sympathetic private attorneys, environmental cases are regularly before the state and federal district courts. In addition, Alaska Legal Services (which despite Ronnie Reagan's best efforts, is supported by your federal tax dollar) acts to protect the subsistence rights of native villagers threatened by oil development. Given this situation, those who would open the state to resource exploitation would love to inhibit the proliferation of public interest lawsuits. If they win this one, few individuals or grassroots groups will dare challenge the state and developers in the courts.

However, there are ways you can protect yourself from the spitefulness of a state agency and judges unsympathetic to public interest litigants. One way is to incorporate. Even if you are assessed a massive judgment, only those assets belonging to the organization are at risk; individual members and officers are immune just like stockholders in Dow Chemical. There are drawbacks to this approach. A disorganization of merry outlaws is forced to assume the forms and hierarchical structure of the corporate world; plus spending time, effort, and money that could better be expended defending Earth. If you do not chose the incorporation route, the alternative is to be certain that only bona fide paupers sign on as individual plaintiffs in any litigation. They can't take what you ain't got.

Don't make our mistake of underestimating the lengths that the earth-rapers will go to neutralize the opposition. After all, anyone who can justify ripping up thousands of acres of wildlife habitat will have no trouble jettisoning those concepts of justice that "civilized" society purports to uphold.

Paul Bratton is an Alaska resident who has been involved in the fight to save Chase.

Letters (cont)

Dear SFB, I recently attended the Great Montana Wild West Exposition, a program by Montana Earth First! on the M.S.U. campus in Bozeman. I nearly left the next day to begin walking the Continental Divide! Montana EF! did one hell of a job. The songs of Walkin' Jim Stoltz are guaranteed to inspire any lover of wilderness. Barb and Gary Steele spoke with feeling about the Montana wilderness they love. Greg Keeler's rowdy, bawdy songs would please Hayduke himself! My hat's off to dedicated deep ecologists everywhere!

--ATO

SFB,

Now, we know that some of you greenie, eekOfreakin' druids get together at equinox and solstice and do some weird stuff in the wastelands. Here's a suggestion from our neo-abo circle to yours: Raise a monolith.

There is a deep spiritual mystery about setting stone on stone when the shadow of the sun falls just so on the Mother. It also frees us from the conventional calendar (never trust the bastards!). There are no rules about monolithing except being careful not to put up anything heavier than you are willing to have fall on you. You might tend toward native American markers of standing trees, or toward Celtic megaliths. I toss in a contemporary talisman to affirm a separate spiritual-political-cultural reality.

You can mark east and west by sunrise and sunset at equinox, and north and south by a compass and plumb at noon solar time on the solstices. Sighting along a staff held beneath the north star will mark the north-south coordinate at night. Set a post or stone to mark Venus or the Pleiades. See what happens next year. By marking the change of seasons, you might discover a cyclic migration of the clan of which you were unaware.

It is wonderful to practice religious freedom on public lands. It is surprising what a sense of ownership applies to your sacred grove, mountain, canyon after you have performed a simple act of adoration and mystery. Imagine the greedheads trying to bulldoze your calendar stone!

—The Druid

Friends,

Please send me a copy of *Ecodefense*. I broke into my son's "Sparkletts bottle. . ." it's for his own good that I get this book. I have no intentions of sending him to school; I'm going to teach him myself and hopefully he'll become a full time monkeywrencher.

If you're not radical, you're not thinking!

— Klairice

Dave and gang,

Here's my $15 for another year. This money came hard but goes easily — spend it wisely. You folks have given me the courage to go public with my ideas and visions of a harmonious coexistence between man and nature. You've given me the courage to oppose the destructive arm of civilization and to suggest pushing that arm back. Nobody else could have done it. Keep up the visionary work! Earth First!

In wildness,
Gray Cloud

continued on pg. 24

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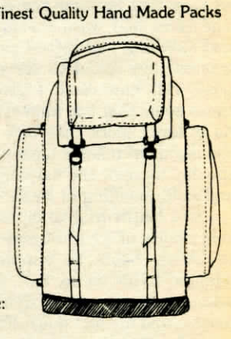

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DEEP ECOLOGY SOUNDTRACK

Part V: Folk Music

By Lone Wolf Circles

The original (archaic) meaning of "Folk" is tribe. Folk music defined the form and bio-rhythm of the tribe. Tribal identity was maintained, fostering the cohesion necessary for the hunter/gatherers' survival. Each song held a seed, shared only with the trust of the clan. It bore fruit as wisdom, courage, and allegiance to the tribe's sacred view. But even more important than clan bonding, song-seeds renewed the bond to their home reinforcing the biocentricism that allowed them to live vigorously yet harmoniously on their land, inspiring their allegiance to their region.

Folk songs of the traditional people of every race, and culture, rightfully tell the story of their relationship to their homeland, celebrate the character of the area and its inhabitants both human and non-human.

From these common roots Folk has branched into many different forms, from Bluegrass and TRUE Country to Suzzanne Vega's poetic exploration. These elements of folk are the saving grace of most bearable contemporary recordings. Folk begins as something everyone present participates in and in this tradition I am reminded of it everytime the line between performer and audience is blurred in their personal interaction.

My friend Bill Oliver is the perfect example of magical rapport. In his live performances for Earth First!, he steps into the crowd, draws them into his stories until everyone becomes a participant and his lyric lessons are planted in all but the most callous of hearts. I have turned my career over entirely to EF! and the Deep Ecology message, concentrating on a newfound fusion of music and poetry Bill inspired with his intuitive interaction at the '85 RRR.

From hilarious manifestoes like "Shopping Maul" and the catchy "Condo" (with the sound of the rolling leviathan), to heartfelt ballads like "William O. Douglas" and "Heartstrings," Bill demonstrates that Folk is vital and alive. On his album TEXAS OASIS (available on cassette for $9 from EF! Music, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703) we are treated to a look at the heart of a man made pure through his suffering and love, a sensitivity and devotion impossible to suppress.

From the lessons in "There's This Hill":

There's this river in the valley below
It's boiling with rapids and sometimes it's slow
It can tell you stories no pen ever wrote
Fill your cups, fill your hopes
There's this hill, for my teaching I go
Learn why the sun is, how little I know
About the mountains, rivers, wonders of this earth
About how much, how much its worth
. . .

An interesting album by EF!er Jon Sirkis is A FEW LESS COLORS (Boulder Folk Records, 2888 Bluff St. #492, Boulder, CO 80301). It is popular for its funny politicized ramblings, tunes that seem to have hitchhiked here from the sixties, the soles of their feet black from walking city sidewalks and kicking idealistic coals back into the philosophical fire. I am impressed by the three most serious cuts, which benefit from the addition of strong vocals by Jenny Allen. Their harmony on Gram Parson's "Hickory Wind," combined with excellent instrumentation does justice to this song — which many feel was done best by Dan Fogelberg. The haunting vocals and Jon Parry fiddles (reminiscent of SugarCane Harris on Mayall's USA UNION) carry Gershwin's "Summertime." The finest cut remains the title song, in which the special place to which we each retreat is covered with tract homes and shopping malls, "But still we'll go on living — we'll adapt to whatever remains. . ."

But there's so much else to deal with
And I got more important things on my mind today
And so what's a few less colors in the rainbow
In the minds of the men who live their lives in grey
Heaven only help us if we wait
'Til there's nothing left to save.

We are reminded of the pretty sounds of '60s acoustic Folk groups like Peter, Paul and Mary listening to Liz Pauly harmonize on Scott Crichton's album TAKE ME BACK TO OLD MONTANA (Milwaukee Rode Prod., Box 285, Helena, MT 59624). It is a beautiful collection. Included is Bob Nolan's obscure "Montana," traditionals, and "The Hammer Has To Fall" written for the ballsy, if insane group of eight folks including Daniel Berrigan arrested for beating on live atomic warheads with hammers. Called the Plowshares Eight, we can only hope that they recognize the plow has done as much or more than the sword in reducing our wild world to subjugation.

Chief Joseph would agree. Scott's version of Fred Small's "Heart of the Appaloosa" traces the pursuit and murder of his people and the horses they had come to rely on:

But sometimes without warning from a dull domestic herd
A spotted horse of spirit, wondrous will emerge
Strong it is, and fearless, and nimble on a hill
Listening for thunder, the Appaloosa's living still.

You can't get any more "Folk" than Walkin' Jim Stoltz, whose wondrous tape SPIRIT IS STILL ON THE RUN we proudly represent ($9 from EF! Music). Having walked over 15,000 miles of trail in recent years, he'll naturally walk from his cabin in Montana to his performance at our '86 EF! Rendezvous, "by way of Arizona and Nevada!" I am anxious to work with Jim, as I share his "Lone Coyote Ways:"

I'm just a half-blooded, pup of a coyote,
Howlin' away my days,
Runnin' to ground my star-studded dreams
And livin' my lone coyote ways.

Anybody who has ever climbed a difficult mountain, listened to a brook, or trembled at the sight of a vanishing puma or griz track as stark and suggestive as carrion — has to be moved by the impassioned realism of "Lone Lion Runs" or "The Writin' On The Rock" (in which the 1881 end of one Jo Baker is taken from the rock where he carved it and lent added immortality with this song, that unlike his rusted rifles will continue to be heard . . .). In "As A Desert Day Dies" remember our thirst for water, satisfied by the sweet-flavored colors of the desert dusk. I know the spirit of my ancestors is still alive, sparkling with robust mischief in the eyes of the likes of Walkin' Jim, and I am reminded the spirit still exists in the remaining wilds we struggle past our cynicism to protect. The bison, grizzly, Indian warriors, tall trees, all the proud ones pushed aside by the civilized juggernaut we've cultivated:

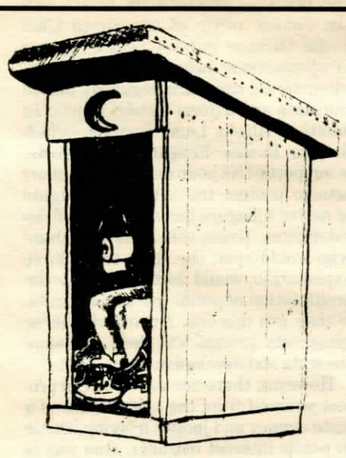
They still give us hope everyone
They give us dreams of the free, what has been and can be,
And their spirit is still on the run."

Reviewed by Lone-Wolf-Circles. Our unparalleled artist and poet, Lone Wolf Circles, writes this regular column on EF! music, and welcomes your recordings and suggestions for review.

View from the Outhouse

Old Boots

by Robert Streeter



I bid farewell to my old hiking boots the other day. It was a long and difficult goodbye, more difficult than many I've experienced with friends and relatives. The connection between boots and feet is powerfully intimate, a bond that is rarely considered consciously until the soft, loyal boots are unlaced for the last time, boots that have slowly become a living extension of your body.

It was on a cold and colorless afternoon, the kind where wood smoke rises slowly and undisturbed through naked twigs, that I decided the end had come. The boots no longer protected my feet as they had for two and a half years. The soles had worn through in spots, and stitching had rotted away. On wet ground they failed to serve their purpose. But how could I give them up, those boots that had known my feet and no others, boots that had shared the thousands of miles I have walked since the day we met; the day they were new and stiff, smelling of fresh leather?

I was loathe to give in, to accept the cold reality of what ultimately happens to boots, boots so supple and well adapted to life on my feet. I refused to acknowledge they were dying that final month, and my feet quite often paid the price for resisting new boots. My toes were often icy and wet, but those uncomfortable moments were somehow justified by the satisfaction of taking the old pair for just one more hike in the woods. I was loyal to the bitter end.

I sat on the steps of the cabin that final day, covered by a low winter sky that masked the setting sun. I unlaced the boots in the same methodical way I always had, and pulled them from my feet. I dumped out a little sawdust and dirt, then placed them next to me in the silence of the evening.

Some will accuse me of writing a maudlin column about inanimate pieces of leather, but others will understand, the ones who have known their boots like I have.

I remember when I brought them home to my cottage on the Wisconsin River and gave them their first coat of mink oil. I took great care in doing a thorough job, hoping they would last even longer than their predecessors. They were broken-in amidst the forests and wetlands of Wisconsin during spring. That summer they hiked the peaks of the Rocky Mountains and the canyons of the Southwest. They soon looked weathered and dignified, no longer just another pair of new boots among the millions of unclaimed boots in stores and factories. They were mine, and I'm not sure exactly what mile or what step it occurred, but somewhere between the wetlands of Wisconsin and the forests of New England, my feet had come home again.

We worked and played under every condition imaginable, my boots and I, gliding through the seasons for one year and then another in a biped's state of bliss. But last summer I knew my boots would never survive another winter, and I lamented the reality that boots and old people and many other things in life must always die with vast amounts of life's experiences within them. I pondered the sad irony of how the old, whether boots or people, are the most mature and seasoned for life, yet death soon takes them away. There is beauty and tragedy within the wrinkles of leather and skin.

I carried my boots from the steps to the garbage can, and paused. I looked at the large slice in the in-step of my left boot, the result of a chainsaw accident, and quietly thanked my boot once again for limiting the severity of my wound that August day. There was character and memories and much more in those boots, and I realized I just couldn't stuff them in with the rest of the garbage. They were not garbage. I placed them respectfully on top of the can and walked away, thinking in a moment of weakness that I might take them for one more hike in the morning, but probably not.

Letters (cont)

Hey Gang,

In the central part of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains is a range of granite peaks that rise abruptly from the Piedmont to elevations over 4000 feet. Mt. Pleasant is the most prominent of these peaks, crowned by massive rock formations which overlook beautiful mountain country. This area of National Forest is one of the largest tracts in Virginia that remains free of structures and maintained roads. The Mt. Pleasant area is a prime candidate for protection under the Wilderness Act. It is one of the finest natural areas in the state, featuring sparkling boulder-strewn trout streams, high cascades, massive granite outcrops, and four peaks over 4000 feet high.

In some of the more inaccessible areas are the last vestiges of virgin Appalachian forest. Large centuries-old trees dominate these primeval groves. These relics of our natural heritage are examples of the few stands of uncut hardwood remaining in Virginia. At least one of these groves is scheduled by the Freddies to be cut for commercial timber. Roadbuilding and other clearcuts are planned throughout the Mt. Pleasant area, some of them high on the face of Mt. Pleasant itself.

Widespread action is needed to persuade public officials that this area is worthy of permanent protection. A letter addressed to the Forest Supervisor and a copy sent to Representative Jim Olin are necessary. Mention how you are familiar with the area, recognize its virtues, and request that the area be placed under Special Management (no logging, roadbuilding, development) by the Forest Service, and eventually designated a Wilderness Area. The letter need not be typed. Send to: George Smith, Supervisor, George Washington Natl. Forest, Federal Building, Harrisonburg, VA 22801; and to Jim Olin, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. For more info, contact: Dan Miles, Virginia Wilderness Committee, Rt.1, Box 512, Forest, VA 24551 (804-525-5669).

Thanks for the help
— Scott

continued on pg. 25

BC GOVERNMENT REJECTS NATIVES' FOREST PLAN

by Rabinowitz

There are two dominant public misconceptions that institutionalize destructive forest use in British Columbia and ensure the continuance of the British Columbia timber industry's stranglehold on land use decisions in the province. One is the presumed "fact" that half of the money of all BC citizens comes directly or indirectly from cutting down, milling and pulping BC's trees. The other misconception is the promoted idea that the Tree Farm License tenure system produces the best managed forests in the province, with management standards among the highest in the world. In actuality, the contribution of forest industry to gross provincial revenues is closer to 25% and has been declining for more than a decade. And the poor management of BC forests is starkly evident to outside foresters on visists to BC. Due to inadequate replanting, the reduction in the supply of harvestable trees is estimated to be approaching 30% and growing each year.

The exaggerated importance of the forest industry has given it "sacred cow" status with the BC government. The BC Council of Forest Industries pools its money and influence as a trade association to promote and protect the logging interests' power in BC. In the late 1940s the government accepted the industry's argument that there was no reason for them to invest in competitive plant modernization (automation) unless they could be assured of an absolutely secure timber supply. This was the origin of the Tree Farm License system, a giveaway made politically acceptable to the conservative government by the everpresent "threat" of take-over by the socialists. This tenure system favors big industry by decreasing economic competition and facilitating the take-over of the resource by a few giant tree farm landlords, and guaranteeing their claim to large tracts of land *(regardless of Indian land claims for the* same lands) decades in advance of their actual logging. As a result, there is no need for Tree Farm License holders to compete for trees in BC. Lacking competition, these companies feel no compulsion to use resources efficiently, and wastefulness abounds.

The people of the Nishga Nation have watched the wasting of their forests since 1958 when logging operations first reached the Naas Valley in northwestern BC. The best trees there have been cut, with many cut and left to rot in the woods. What was once an ecologically diverse and integrated watershed supporting fish, wildlife, and a native culture of people, is now characterized by those people as "a sea of rotten stumps" with impaired soil and water quality, degraded fish and wildlife habitat, and vast brush fields where Sitka spruce once grew 200 feet tall. This was the work of the corporate holders of Tree Farm License (TFL) Number 1, destruction sanctioned by the government of British Columbia. In 1982 the Nishga Tribal Council commissioned a Forest Resources Study of the Naas Valley, which reveals that:

—from 58 to 96% (up to 36,000 acres) of the area logged and said to be reforested is not satisfactorily reforested;
—73% of the best quality logged area is choked with brush;
—25% of the soil in logged areas has been severely damaged;
—manipulation of provincial regulations has resulted in high-grading, the accelerated removal of the best trees;
—contract specifications and provincial forestry policies were "relaxed," reducing requirements for reforestation, timber utilization, forest management planning, and protection of the environment.

The official rationale for the wasting of the Naas, as of the other forests in BC is economic: with the economy slumping, there is not much of a market for lower quality wood and prices paid for it are low. Logging companies feel they have to cut more and sell more of the best wood to bring in adequate profits. This situation could have been avoided if they had reinvested in maintaining the forests and in production plant innovations when the economy was healthy and more wood was available. Now, however, they burn lesser quality timber to avoid paying stumpage fees and sacrifice salmon spawning beds, wildlife habitat and the entire cultural heritage of native peoples.

The industry's short term outlook is reflected in the MacMillan Bloedel Company's current management and working plan for TFL #44 (the large holding that includes 42% of Meares Island as a tiny part of its lands). Its stated goal is to "harvest at the maximum economically sustainable level" rather than follow the original intention of the tree farm tenures and harvest at a biologically sustainable level. The Forest Service in Canada leaves forest utilization and regeneration surveys entirely up to the companies, never taking the time to check the accuracy of company reports — lack of complete and unbiased information keeps the public myth of good management alive. An example of how closely linked the BC logging industry and government agencies have become is the withdrawal of a pro-preservation brief in favor of protecting Meares Island, prepared by local Parks Canada agents. It was withdrawn after MacMillan Bloedel complained to the federal government that it was outside the mandate of Parks Canada (the equivalent of the National Park Service).

The economic situation in the Naas contrasts starkly from what tree farm license holders and the BC government claim. The Nishga point out that resource exploitation, such as that which has been taking place in the Naas, always results in high social costs for the rural people of an area. Westwar Timber Ltd., the current holder of TFL #1, has severely curtailed operation in the Naas Valley. As a result, residents of northwestern BC now suffer from high unemployment and degraded environments. Poor management in Naas forests has resulted in the loss of an estimated 250 jobs in logging and forestry, the loss of approximately 450 additional jobs in service and supply industries, losses of up to $31 million in timber not growing on logged lands, and costs of up to $35 million to reforest and rehabilitate logged lands.

The Nishga are an independent people, taking responsibility for the long term health of their environment and people as an inseparable whole. An ancient people now numbering about 5000, they have been actively seeking, since the 19th century, a just settlement of their claim to the Naas River watershed as their homeland and ancestral property. The Supreme Court split on the question of the Natives' aboriginal title in the Calder case, setting the basis for all present land claim negotiations in BC. Since 1976, they have been the only native group engaged in negotiations with the Canadian federal government and BC's government for the settlement of comprehensive land claims in BC. Yet BC blocks progress by maintaining only "observer" status.

The Nishga Nation has also been active in working for the transfer of land management to the bands and is beginning to take over some of the regional services of the Department of Indian Affairs in their area. They have negotiated jurisdiction over education with the provincial system through their own school board and have formed a unique bilingual program for grades one through twelve. They are attempting to control health services on a local level with an elected Nishga Health Board and are one of the three major tribal groups which formed an Indian corporation which recently acquired the BC Packers northern fishing fleet. They have also maintained a representative at the Canada/USA Pacific salmon treaty negotiations. With this record of working for decentralized self-government and greater control over their own lives, it is not surprising that the Nishga have prepared their own management plan for Naas Valley forests.

The Nishga culture is based on the land, and they are committed to remedy the mistakes of the past. In their management plan for the Naas Valley forests, they have proposed a Tree Farm License to be held by the Nishga Tribal Council. A TFL would be a new expression of Nishga control over Nishga land. Also, a Nishga TFL would show that ecological forest management can provide sustainable jobs; and that BC Indians seeking land claim recognition are not out to control all of BC, but instead intend to share the resources of their land as they have done since white settlers first arrived.

The Nishga would share the resources of their TFL, rehabilitate the land and provide long term jobs in northwestern BC through:

—a commitment to integrated use of all forest resources including timber, water, soil, fish, wildlife, recreation and cultural and spiritual values;
—an objective inventory of all forest resources so that their management plans promote the use and protection of all resources;
—establishment of a forest tree nursery;
—reforestation and rehabilitation of unsatisfactorily reforested areas.
—construction of a modern manufacturing plant to make finished products from the available wood supply;

The Nishga TFL would improve the disastrous local economic situation by:
—creating about 200 jobs in logging, forestry and manufacturing, and about 350 jobs in service and support industries in Pacific Northwest BC;
—requiring low overhead costs compared to large companies;
—avoiding further rehabilitation costs through proper silvicultural practices;
—producing marketable forest products from local raw materials.

The Nishga have tried to obtain a Naas Valley TFL from the province since 1978. Although the provincial Forest Act calls for suspension and/or cancellation of a license when mismanagement occurs and though the province acknowledges that there are problems in TFL #1, provincial authorities refuse to take action that would permit the Nishga people to apply for a new TFL in the Naas Valley. Since 1983 the Nishga have negotiated with Westar Timber Ltd. to purchase the Naas Valley Portion of TFL #1. Westar refuses to sell, despite their recent lack of forestry activity in the area.

How long would it have taken Westar to sell or provincial authorities to act if the offers had been made by white business representatives? Fortunately the Nishga Nation's Tree Farm License proposal has been well received by the federal government of Canada. If they are able to obtain a TFL from BC, financial support could be sought from the federal government as well as from private sources. For once a solution to poor forest management and ecological destruction has been advanced which is compatible with both the prevailing legal system and a set of ethics based on the common good and the need for ecological diversity and balance. It would be a sad comment on our fatal separation from the natural Earth and all the richness it offers us if we let racism, dog-in-the-manger-corporate greed, and a phony system of values and "justice" stand in the way of such promising solutions or our inspiration to personally implement others like them.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
—Write to the Premier of BC, Bill Bennett, the Minister of Forests for BC, (and your MLA if you are a Canadian citizen) requesting the granting of a Nishga Tree Farm License in the Naas Valley. Address your letters to: Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8X 1X4 Canada.
—Support ecologically sound forest management plans for BC and for your own bioregion; design your own to address local problems and act with determination to implement them.

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Letters (cont)

Dear SFB,

As a supporter of Earth First! I read the articles contained in each issue of your publication. In my own way, I do what I can to slow the march of "progress" in those areas I know. By the time such efforts are required, however, most areas are already in deep shit. Perhaps in addition to the direct actions of EF! greater effort should be made to encourage the backpacking community to become familiar with de facto wilderness areas before they come under attack.

"What! Let my favorite places be destroyed through overcrowding?" you cry. Let's face it, our "secret" places are secret only to other wilderness enthusiasts. The government and developers know where these places are, and the fewer backpackers that know, the better they like it. I've watched helplessly as many areas have fallen to the developer's bulldozer primarily for lack of sufficient popular support (how about the Burr Trail?). There are hikers from all walks of life (three cheers for Tom Stoddard and "Bury Me Not In A Lead Coffin") who care about wilderness. These people can be a source of information and support if they are familiar with an area. I suggest we try to make concerned wilderness enthusiasts aware of roadless areas before they become targets for development.

I'm interested in what other EF!ers have to say about this potentially controversial subject. Meanwhile, keep up the good work; I'll keep pulling stakes in Utah.

Kokopelli
SLC, UT

Dear SFB,

I want you to know why I'm ordering ten copies of *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*. Cattlemen have been grazing their herds in the Nevada County, CA, area not only on public lands but on private lands that are unfenced. This is despite a law in Nevada County which states open grazing is illegal. Our land is involved. We now have a criminal case in the courts regarding this matter. It took seven years and a lot of damage to our property before anyone listened to

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REVIEWS

Photo by Doug Peacock

THE SACRED PAW: THE BEAR IN NATURE, MYTH, AND LITERATURE; Paul Shepard and Barry Sanders, with an afterword by Gary Snyder; Viking; NY; 1986; $17.95.

The bear is an animal in its own right, needing no justification for human purposes. But bears, of all animals, most closely resemble humans. They, like humans, are omnivores. They tend to be solitary creatures, hunting and gathering through the landscape with careful attention to details. Stripped of their fur, they look remarkably like a human body. They are moody, gruff and yet affectionate with their cubs. And in the great circle of the polar regions of the northern hemisphere, over tens of thousands of years, bears and humans have lived in close proximity.

The bear, in the minds of humans perplexed by great questions of living and dying, symbolizes harmony of nature and society, ". . . a harmony disrupted in the modern world, in a philosophical lurch separating man from his natural origins." The bear, in many societies, is a sacred animal arousing both fear and awe. Although modern science makes a clear distinction between animals and humans, ". . . bears always seem about to transcend that division."

The English language, bearing many Teutonic and Indo-European root words, has at least 44 meanings for the verb "to bear." We "bear responsibility," "take bearing," and "bear in mind." Deep inside our unconscious, Paul Shepard asserts, ". . . where language 'means' in multiple ways, the bear's sacredness is still part of our lives."

Paul Shepard is a human ecologist. In his 1969 book, *The Subversive Science*, Shepard says that ecology subverts the dominant premises of modern, reductionist science and that the deeper meanings of ecology are discovered through myth and ritual.

In *The Sacred Paw*, Shepard and Barry Sanders examine in fascinating detail the biology of bears, and myths and rituals concerning bears, as well as themes concerning bears in modern literature. In the epilogue, ecopoet Gary Snyder examines our fear of bears. Fear of bears, in a sense, is fear of ourselves. Primal societies honored bears. Yet when we consider the fate of bears and primal peoples in modern, techno-scientific civilization, Snyder says, a "shocking paradox" is revealed: "the progress of civilization by which we justify the dislocation and destruction of small aboriginal societies is the same process that is bringing all mankind to the environmental crisis!"

For at least forty thousand years, humans have hunted bears, yet in primal societies bears were treated with respect and honor due a god. Great celebrations, ceremonies and rituals attended the killing and eating of bear. Furthermore, Shepard suggests bears were possibly tutors of humans. Observing bears, humans learned gathering and hunting. Bear mythology developed the great themes of transcendence and connectedness, life and death, sky, the earth's surface and the underworld. The great mystery of death and rebirth seen in the bear's hibernation ritual, drew humans to pay close attention to bears.

Biologically, all bears share a common ancestor. Only eight species inhabit Earth today. Even in the late twentieth century, after centuries of observation by biologists and skilled naturalists, we have much to learn about the natural history of bears — especially about hibernation and feeding patterns. Instead of honoring bear in the twentieth century, we have trivialized the quality of bearness into toys and have hunted most species to the point of near extinction over much of their historic range.

The future of bears seems as grim as the future of the human race. In California grizzly bears were exterminated in the early twentieth century, although Grizz still strides across the state flag (The Bear Flag Republic). In California and many other states, black bears are hunted with dogs during the legally established hunting season and poached throughout the year by hunters seeking their paws and bladder. In some regions, timber corporations want to declare bears outlaws, "industrial menaces" as one forester said, to the carefully managed monoculture tree farms because of the bear habit of marking certain areas with claw marks.

Polar bears in arctic regions, panda bears in China, and Malay bears in the jungles of Malaysia are threatened by human destruction of habitat. As Shepard and Sanders conclude, "only in a few places are the bears themselves doing well."

And the grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem are the most threatened of all. Shepard and Sanders do not discuss the politics of bear management by the Park Service and state Fish and Wildlife Commissions. For that dismal story, readers can consult Alston Chase's book, *The Last Bears of Yellowstone*. For this reviewer, and probably for many EF!ers, *The Sacred Paw* is both fascinating and depressing.

Shepard and Sanders quote from Robert Frost, William Faulkner and other famous twentieth century writers who observed bears closely and wrote sympathetically about them. Unfortunately, they do not quote from John Muir, considered by many as the father of the American conservation movement. For the environmental activist, there is no better quote than Muir's statement, ". . .I have precious little sympathy for the selfish propriety of civilized man, and if a war of races should occur between the wild beasts and Lord Man, I would be tempted to sympathize with the bears."

It is time for those of us who see our sacred kinship with bears to bear responsibility, take our bearings, bear the good tidings of biocentric equality and bear arms in defense of bear.

Reviewed by Bill Devall.

Bill Devall is co-author of DEEP ECOLOGY and a professor at Humboldt State University.

THE GIFTING BIRDS: TOWARD AN ART OF HAVING PLACE AND BEING ANIMAL; Charles Jones; 1985; Dream Garden Press (Salt Lake City); $14.95; 158 pp.

Charles Jones' new book may soon be considered a masterpiece of imaginative non-fiction. His book deals with the importance of developing an appropriate attitude toward place and time, and a recognition — which must go beyond mere rational acceptance — that each of us is an animal.

Jones suggests the development of an esthetics of place, writing: "students of esthetics assumed the widespread and unquestioned position which separates man from nature, or, more dramatically, man from Nature, and history from natural history. It is one of man's common and self-limiting mistakes . . . . An esthetics of place would have to involve sensory responses to everything present in any given place, which would include all five — or more? — senses, as well as time and movement. Nothing strictly human or strictly non-human . . . ."

Jones effectively communicates an understanding of time, and our relation to it, somewhat akin to Buddhist conceptions of time and probably far more compatible with Earth than Western progressive notions of time. Jones shows the importance of living in the present time, rather than always looking ahead or behind.

Jones also shows the value of solitude, and carefully distinguishes solitude from loneliness. He writes that, "solitude, unlike loneliness, is a matter of choice." He goes on to say that wilderness is a place for solitude, but that those who enjoy solitude are few in number and thus do not have the clout to gain and protect enough Wilderness Areas.

The gifting birds which left Jones with various feelings and memories, which he used to develop a sense of place, endowed Jones generously. To conclude it is worth quoting another line from his fine book: "I think the gifting birds have told me that I cannot be fully human until I am an animal."

Reviewed by Australopithecus

RESTORING THE EARTH: HOW AMERICANS ARE WORKING TO RENEW OUR DAMAGED ENVIRONMENT; John J. Berger; 1985; Alfred A. Knopf (NY); $16.95 hardback; 222 pp.

Environmentalists are buried under information overloads. There are more good books and articles on ecological problems than we can ever read. So why would ecologist John Berger add to this overload? His reasons are clear and sound: "Environmental groups were working to conserve resources and to reduce or avert pollution, but few people seemed to be thinking about how to recover lost ground. I believed that conservation and pollution abatement were necessary, but I felt these were intrinsically rearguard actions to protect dwindling resources . . . . By contrast, restoration is an effort to imitate nature in all its artistry and complexity by taking a degraded system and making it more diverse and productive. . . . While certainly no longer in a pristine state, the restored resource becomes healthy, life supporting, and pleasing to the eye. In this condition, the resource provides a sound basis for the creation of new jobs and prosperity.

"The world's population will exceed six billion by 2000 A.D., just fifteen years from now. As resources once taken for granted are exhausted or contaminated — and as we thus draw closer to the Earth's carrying capacity — the need for actively restoring damaged resources becomes ever more urgent."

Berger's book describes eloquently a number of cases where activists have succeeded in restoring devastated environments or in some way helping nature. Examples he discusses include: the Nashua River of Massachusetts; Maine's Annabessacook Lake; native prairie vegetation of the Midwest; a community in Davis, California; and reintroduction programs for peregrine falcons. While some of the activists he discusses differ from Deep Ecologists philosophically (e.g. some seek to restore streams not because of a biocentric appreciation for nature but for the sake of better fishing), these activists have certainly made noble and successful efforts to heal wounded ecosystems. However, as Berger hints, the potential to restore ecosystems can be abused: Corporations may justify sloppy abuse of land by claiming that the land can later be restored. Nevertheless, from reading Berger's book, one realizes that ecosystem restoration techniques are a necessary addition to Deep Ecology lifestyles.

In sum, Berger's book is an important book for Deep Ecologists to read. Read it for information; read it for inspiration; then go restore an ecosystem!

Reviewed by Australopithecus

STATE OF THE WORLD 1985: A WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY; Lester Brown et al; 1985; W.W. Norton & Co. (500 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10110); $18.95 cloth, $8.95 paperback ($6.95 each for 2-4 copies, 4.95 each 5 or more); 301 pp.

This Worldwatch report is an excellent reference source for ecologists needing information. It features current facts and figures on food production, water supplies, fisheries, acid rain, biological diversity, energy, population growth, and related subjects. This is a very readable book and should be read by all government authorities and corporate executives. However, while *State of the World* makes it clear that the world is in grave condition, the authors do not write from a Deep Ecology perspective and do not advocate the radical societal transformations which EF! believes are necessary.

It is worth citing a few of the more interesting facts given in the book:

—The world lost about 25 billion tons of topsoil from croplands last year, contributing to the interrelated problems of desertification, drought, loss of wildlife, and famine.

— If the recent average of a 4% yearly increase in fossil fuels continues, "atmospheric carbon dioxide levels will double preindustrial levels by 2030 . . . Under this scenario temperatures would rise three degrees celsius within the next 45 years." This would severely disrupt rain patterns — the US cornbelt would likely become drier, for instance — and raise the sea level, eventually five to seven meters, thus flooding agricultural lowlands and coastal cities. (Ed. Note: other authorities believe that higher carbon dioxide levels will instead trigger a new Ice Age.)

— While China has brought its population growth rate down to 1% per year, Africa's growth continues at nearly 3% a year — at which rate its population will double in about 25 years. Demographers expect world population to double in 40 years, and to rise beyond ten billion

— Deforestation — now estimated at 11.3 million hectares per year — and dams have upset water flows to such an extent that developing countries are afflicted by a "vicious cycle of flooding, soil loss, declining crop production, and perennial drought. In Malaysia, conversion of natural forest to rubber and palm oil plantations has doubled peak runoff and cut dry-season flow in half.

— In 1982, world fish catch began decreasing despite increased investment in the fishing industry. "By the early eighties 11 major oceanic fisheries — 6 in the Atlantic and 5 in the Pacific — had been depleted to the point of collapse."

— Rainforests — which contain 40% of living species — are being cleared at the rate of 30 acres per minute. This is causing reduced transpiration of plants that recharge rain clouds, thereby altering climates over large areas of Earth.

— "Without adequate treatment the growing volume and toxicity of wastes could render as much as a fourth of the world's reliable [water] supply unsafe for use by the year 2000."

— "One-fifth of the irrigated cropland in the US is supported by water mined from a vast underground reserve called the Ogallala aquifer. The aquifer is now half depleted under 900,000 hectares."

— Cases of overdraft of ground water include: Colorado River Basin (for example, "Water delivered to Arizona through the Central Arizona Project will make up for only half of the state's annual ground water depletion"); High Plains, US; northern China; Tamil Nadu, India; Israel; Arabian Gulf; Mexico City; Central Valley, CA; southwestern Soviet Union.

— Africa was self-sufficient in food in 1970. "In 1984, however, some 140 mil-

lion Africans . . . were fed with grain from abroad. The decline is largely attributable to three well-established trends: the fastest population growth of any continent in history, widespread soil erosion and desertification, and the failure by African governments to give agriculture the support that it needs."

These are merely a sample of the many grim facts which can be learned in Worldwatch's annual progress report. Read this for information, not inspiration.

Reviewed by Wm. Koethke and Australopithecus

THE EARTH SPEAKS; Steve Van Matre and Bill Weiler; 1983; The Institute of Earth Education (POB 288, Warrenville, IL 60555); $9.95; 185 pp.

The Earth Speaks is an inspiring "acclimatization journal" of nature writings compiled and with introductory essays by The Institute for Earth Education. The writings are excellent; with poems, short quotes, and short essays by Rachel Carson, John Muir, Loren Eisley, Annie Dillard, Thoreau, Helen Keller, Lao Tzu, Chief Seattle, and many other great thinkers. The pieces, though varied in style, share a common theme of love for nature; and may even implicitly share a biocentric world view. The Institute's book is fun, inspiring reading and I would urge improvements in only two ways: 1. Give the date of each writing and a little background information about each writer. 2. Include more writings from woman naturalists, such as Mary Austin and Jane Goodall, and from contemporary woman thinkers such as Charlene Spretnak and Starhawk. In conclusion, *The Earth Speaks* is an enlightening reminder that indeed Mother Earth and all her creatures do speak.

Reviewed by Australopithecus

THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIRDS: TALES, TEXTS, AND POEMS OF INTERSPECIES COMMUNICATION; edited with an introduction and notes by David M. Guss; 1985; North Point Press (San Francisco); $14.50 paper; 359 pp.

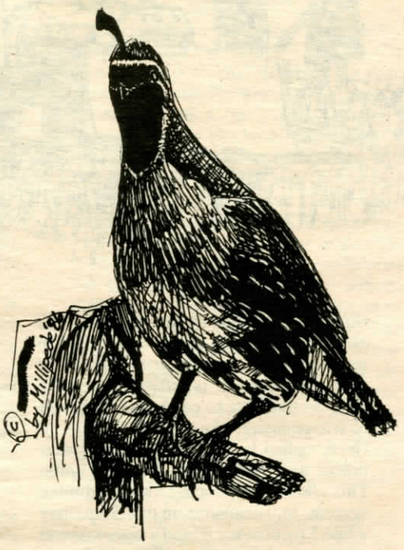
The Language of the Birds is a fascinating collection of prose, poetry, myth and magic centered around the theme of the importance of communication between humans and other animals to traditional rituals and lifestyles. The introduction by Guss best explains his subject: "[The shaman] is the mediator between human and animal cultures — between seen and unseen — the one who restores balance to the ecosystem whenever it is disturbed.

"The shaman's flight, which makes things whole, does so with the power of song. For this ecstatic journey is above all a linguistic one. And it is with this in mind that Rothenberg and others have referred to the shaman as 'proto-poet, for almost always his technique hinges on the creation of special linguistic circumstances, i.e., of tone and invocation.' Accompanied by drum or rattle, by drugs, costume, and dance, the shaman enters his trance through the power of his words and once there receives the special message he has set out to learn. This message — special in both form and content — is delivered in another language, the secret, esoteric one that spirits and animals use in their own world. This is the language of transformations and Magic Words, the language of the unconscious and the underworld, the one that shamans speak to one another, and refer to as the "Language of the Birds."

Ecologists will find much in this book which they enjoy, and much that is so foreign to our Western ways of thinking that we find it quite puzzling. For this reason, it would have been helpful if Guss had provided more background information on the rituals, myths, and tribes dealt with in this book. For instance, the Ox Song from Sudan is confusing at best to some of us Western heathens. Fortunately, many of the stories from North American Indians, such as the Paiute, Cree, Karok, and Eskimo peoples, are entertaining and enlightening even to those of us unfamiliar with anthropology.

To conclude, we strongly recommend *The Language of the Birds* to all readers. As much as almost any modern writing, it can give us a glimpse into that language so essential for the well-being of all creatures.

Reviewed by Australopithecus



MAD MAX: BEYOND THUNDERDOME; starring Mel Gibson and Tina Turner; written by Terry Hayes and George Miller.

STREETWISE; created by Cheryl McCall, Ellen Mark and Martin Bell.

The prophets write on subway walls as pop culture gives mechanical visions and revelations to the children in industrial society. The Mad Max movies are in the genre of post-apocalyptic visions of the future, when civilization has collapsed and the survivors battle and kill each other for the scraps; the final shoot-out around the gas pump.

Streetwise is a riveting, cinema verite look at the personal lives of street kids who live around Pike Street in Seattle and exist by dumpster diving, prostitution and other scams. For these homeless kids even the shriveled nuclear family has disintegrated and they live in abandoned buildings in a bombed out "urban renewal" setting. For them, the apocalypse has already occurred.

In the Mad Max movies, civilization with its administrative-legal, mass institutions of social control has evaporated. The movie viewers focus on the few remaining artifacts of civilization after the bomb, but people in the Earth First! movement see that ALREADY the planetary social and biotic community is in apocalypse!

CIVILIZATION IS A TOXIC WATERMELON

The Industrial Empire (sneaking along under its euphemism, "civilization") has already died, it simply has not yet fallen over. Its "hybrid" seed is dead. Twenty percent of the agricultural poisons exported from the US to the people of the Third World by the transnational industrial elite are so dangerous they can't even pass the inadequate FDA test for use here in the US. That's all we have to know. That tells us the future of the empire that would commit such a crime. The elite are so degenerate that they will cause the poisoning of their own children as those toxic Third World products return to them.

THE MILK OF OUR MOTHERS IS POISON

Try not to breathe! The Association for the Prevention of Birth Defects says 60% of the toxic load in the Great Lakes now originates in the atmosphere. They report that in some areas of the country, nursing babies are having mini-convulsions because of toxics concentrated through the mother. Moloch, your blood is running poison!

INVISIBLE TOXIC-RAD FIELDS

Mad Max, the celluloid prophet, always carries his gieger counter.

As I hitch-hiked the interstates this summer I realized that "toxic incidents" are happening everywhere, continually; the background toxicity-radiation is rising. On I-5, truck stop newspaper says two pesticide plants blow in Southern Cal, thousands evacuated. Whales in Seattle inland waterways dying from toxic waters. Have a big glass of water in Denver, Ronald Reagan! — and some cleft palates for the kids! The Martin-Murietta plant has poisoned the watershed above a Denver drinking water reservoir. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a sewer plant is afire. Phosgene gas and polyvinylchloride billow up, 10,000 evacuated — the third toxic incident in seventeen days the local news says. That night the TV news tells of the killing of the local river with termite poison. No eating fish there for the next 32 years! Little national coverage — but each truck stop newspaper tells of local "toxic incidents." Even 18 wheel truckers tell of toxic fear, space suit humans on blocked off highways after crashes.

IS THERE A CRISIS?

Civilization is running psycho-biologically AMOK! Can we see the nuclear missiles produced by cultures of militarism? Can we see those fat, bald-headed rainforest killers holding those cans of poison? Can we see the masses of the homeless in urban areas stabbing each other in the alleys for video game quarters?

After one million years of our natural social environment, of cooperative, sharing clan relationships and respect for life; the human transmitted culture has lost the seed. Now, for the social orphans in *Streetwise*, and in the near future of Mad Max, the mass institutions are gone and have left the imperial social and psychological pattern stamped in the mind of the remnants. In the same mode as the behavior of the former empire, the people in *Mad Max* and *Streetwise* attempt to project power by personal violence. Not the power of cooperative and sharing enterprise, not the power of wisdom or the power to help life grow, and not the power that blossoms out of a balanced existence; but the mini-empire of Auntie Entity — Bartertown and Thunderdome — is the malignancy that tries to revive itself.

THE CHILDREN IN PARADISE

As Master Blaster and Mad Max play out the program of empire in Thunderdome (two men enter, one man leaves), a plane load of children sent out by their parents to escape the apocalypse has crashed. They settle in a canyon paradise. They are in much better conditions than the kids in *Streetwise*, now. The young forager-hunters have love, clan, shelter, food and a cooperative, sharing social life. Their naturally arising tribe does not reflect hierarchies of power — and the struggle of Bartertown.

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST HOBBY BECOMES REAL LIFE

Expanding populations, expanding material demands based on dwindling resources and a dying biotic community: the tumor body of the last empire is on a roll. Personal careers and success within the rotting empire, hah! You want to wait around for your toxic load?

WE ARE RESISTING!

Defend Life! Defend Beauty and Joy! Defend "wilderness" — the remnants of healthy EARTH. Revegetate, reseed, reacculturate; Join Our Refugee Column! We're healing ourselves of the poison with balance and awareness — and we're going right through the flaming hoop of the Apocalypse with the seed of the future. One, Two, Many Paradises! Think post-apocalyptically!

Reviewed by Wm. H. Koethke

FIRE FROM THE MOUNTAIN; Omar Cabezas; Crown Publishers; 1985.

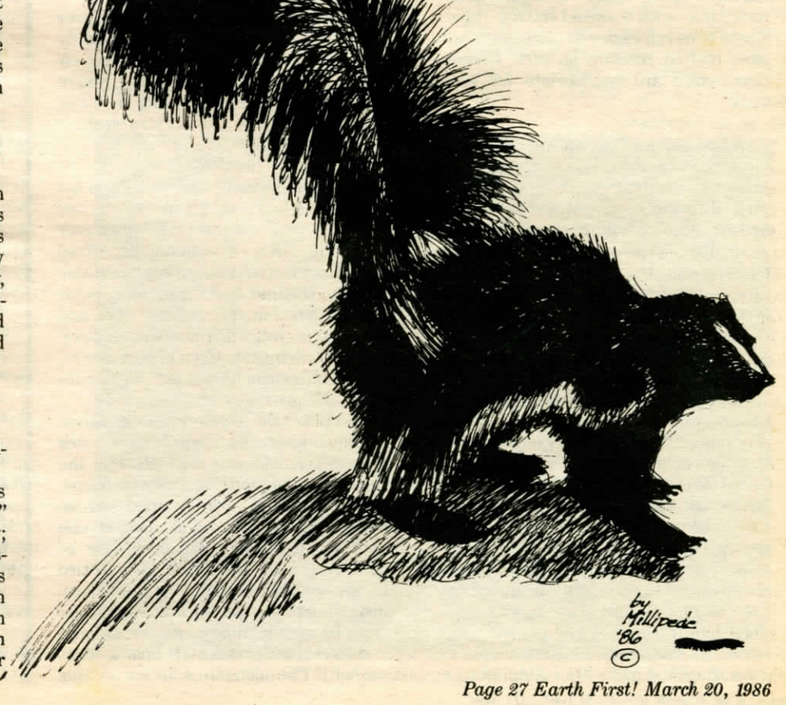
Fire from the Mountain recreates the early years of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is not history in the traditional Western sense — sterile dates, places, people and events. It is history in its truest form — intimate and personal. What is it like to hide in the mountains, challenging not only an omnipresent enemy, but fleas, mud, hunger, and loneliness? From where does hope spring when "the facts" dictate hopelessness?

"So much junk has been written about what it means to be a guerrilla," said Cabezas in a recent interview with the *New York Times*. "The guerrilla is made into a mythical being who never feels pain and is happy to die at any moment. My book shows the fears and the longings and the pain we felt during our years underground."

In any society, it's a lonely business to stand when the majority bow. Writes Cabezas, "Loneliness is starting to forget the sound of cars, the longing at night for electric lights, the longing for colors, because the mountain dresses only in green or dark colors. Nature is green, but what about orange? There's . . . none of the modern colors. Longing for your favorite songs, longing for a woman, longing for sex. Longing to see your family . . . . You long for the company of all those things, but you can't have them." Cabezas' truth is hardly glamorous. Not colorful banners, but mud: "I tramped through the mud, I was glutted with mud, spattered with mud; I shat in mud, cried in mud . . . but I had something with me in the mountains that I never talked about . . . I kept that secret and held it tight for four years. You see, I wanted to live, because I went into the mountains with a fistful of ideals tight in my hand; I never let go of them or got them dirty; and if I fell flat in the mud, when I pulled out my hand, there, tight in my fist, were those ideals."

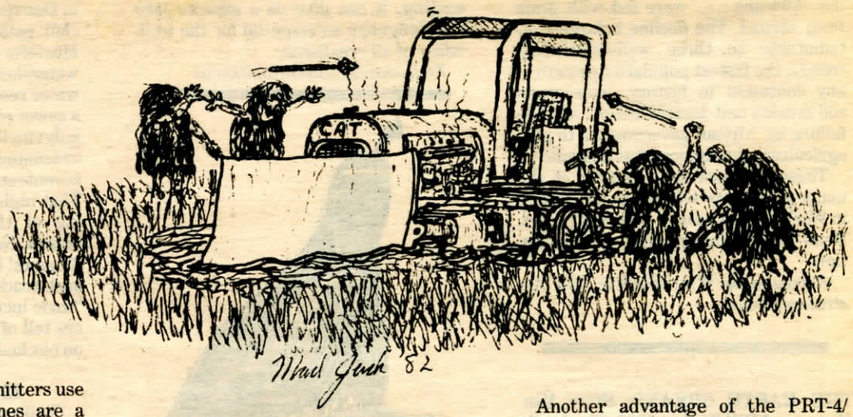
Although the writing is rough, Cabezas' tears do sift through. Loneliness, mud, and tears. If you are looking for a comprehensive picture of the Nicaraguan revolution, this is not it. *Fire from the Mountain* is strictly hands-on, down and dirty, but humorous and loving. Just like revolution.

Paul Richards is a former member of the Montana House of Representatives who currently works as a political consultant, musician, janitor, hotel clerk, and freelance writer.



DEAR NED LUDD

DEAR NED LUDD is a regular feature in *Earth First!* for discussion of creative means of effective defense against the forces of industrial totalitarianism. Neither the Earth First! movement nor the staff of *Earth First!* necessarily encourage anyone to do any of the things discussed in DEAR NED LUDD.



Don't Get Caught — Use Radios

By Nodonn Battlemaster

As some of you are aware, one of the primary tenets of monkeywrenching is: *Don't get caught! ! !* Besides ruining your whole day (or night), getting caught results in excessive lawyer's fees, gloating Freddies, and a certain amount of public exposure which can put a definite crimp in future monkeywrenching ventures.

One of the best ways to prevent getting caught is to have good communications gear. Some equipment that I have used recently on a number of operations and can recommend highly are Army surplus PRT-4's (the RT stands for "radio transmitter"), PRR-9's (RR = "radio receiver") and PRC 25's.

The PRT-4's and PRR-9's are Army squad radios that operate in the 47-57 megahertz bands. The transmitters use two 9-volt batteries (alkalines are a must!) and the receivers use either four 1.5-volt n-cells or a 9-volt battery with a 6-volt adapter. The transmitters put out about 450 milliamps of power which is pretty good when you consider that the radio shack headphone mini-radios put out about 100 milliamps. Range for the PRT-4/PRR-9 is easily 1 1/2 miles line-of-sight. Two PRT-4's with two PRR-9's cost the military 1,600 bucks but can be purchased surplus in excellent working condition for 150 dollars plus shipping (which is an extra five dollars).

Since these radios were constructed for the military they have been considerably over-engineered and can take plenty of abuse. Transmitters have worked even after klutzy paratroopers dropped them from a thousand feet! Since these radios do not have an FCC approval stamp on them, it is illegal to use them — *but not to own them.* However, enforcement is difficult since the FCC would have to catch you in the act of transmission. Another advantage of these radios is the fact that the transmitter and receiver are separate units. This allows two people to have a duplex system, ie, I transmit on one frequency while I receive my friend's transmission on a second frequency. This decreases the possibility of someone scanning and picking up both sides of a conversation. Another advantage is that for another 70 bucks you can pick up a piece of equipment called an ID-1189 which is a test machine which allows you to change frequencies once you buy new crystals which are about 6 dollars each.

Another advantage of the PRT-4/PRR-9 combination is that it can net with the larger 920-channel PRC-25. A few weeks ago while out testing radios, I was in a river bed and easily transmitted and received transmissions with a PRC-25 that was over 5 1/2 miles away with three intervening ridges. Unfortunately, the PRC-25 is $650. For those with a Doc Sarvis in their back pocket, however, there's the PRC-77 for $800, a solid-state version of the PRC-25 with crypto-capability, meaning that with the PRC-77 you can encrypt your transmissions so no one can figure out what you're saying even if they do hear the transmission.

These radios are rugged, inexpensive for the quality, lightweight and dependable. If you are interested, just write to me in care of the Earth First! paper.

Mountain Bikes

By The Mad Engineer

As a rabid Earth First!er and an avid off-pavement cyclist, I have been following the controversy over "mountain bikes" with interest. While I agree that there are certain places where the bikes (or at least some of the dildoheads who ride them) do *not* belong, it is also clear to me that mountain bikes can be useful to those who use extralegal means of defending our Homeland from the Mad Machine. The bikes are light, quiet, portable, and will go almost anywhere, and have a fairly long range. Unfortunately, they have several drawbacks, such as cost, inability to handle certain types of terrain, and hard physical labor. The following is a guide to help you use the mountain bike effectively in your ecodefensive operations.

Getting Started

For those with limited off-road cycling experience, or limited cycling experience of any kind, I suggest reading some of the books on the market which discuss how to buy, equip, and ride a mountain bike. Pay special attention to the sections on carrying gear. For non-camping outings, you will still need a *sturdy* rear rack, tool kit, tire pump, a set of rear panniers, and either thornproof tubes or a tube protector like "Mr Tuffy." Be sure you have "full knobby" tires. Many mountain bikes have tires with a raised middle ridge. These tires roll easier on pavement, but have limited traction on dirt. Choose tires which are appropriate for your area.

Advantages of Mountain Bikes

Unlike cars or motorcycles, mountain bikes are easily carried by people or cars. A group of people and bikes can be brought to within 10 or so miles of a work site in a van or truck, dropped off, and picked up at someplace else miles away. A bicycle can also be easily carried across washed-out sectionsof roads, or lifted over fences and gates. Many bikes can be carried in one vehicle, or hidden in a van or truck.

Bicycles can be easily hidden in the field as well, which is nice when one is in a "closed area," or does not feel like making explanations to "authority figures." The bikes can be stashed in the bushes (be sure you remember where!) for a quick getaway after an action. They are also easy to get out of sight if you hear someone coming. A person on a mountain bike can quickly scout out access and exit routes (most Freddie maps show very few of the logging roads, jeep trails and connections). Most people in good shape can ride 20 to 50 miles in a day depending on terrain. Just about any jeep road or logging road can be ridden, along with many below-timberline hiking trails (see Editor's note) without too much pushing and carrying. Stay off of wilderness area trails and any steep erodible trails, please! (Unless in a *real* emergency).

Disadvantages of Mountain Bikes

As one can see, mountain bikes can make ecodefense easier, quicker and safer. But they won't work in all situations. A good mountain bike is expensive, from $450 to $1,200 for the 15-speed low-geared light bikes. Not all of us are renegade yuppies with that kind of money. There are some bikes in the $250 - $450 range which aren't as chic, but they work adequately on the trail. Also check for used bikes.

Mountain biking, especially with a load of gear, can be *very* hard work. When I started riding, I was somewhat surprised by how hard it could be. Unlike pavement riding, you have to continually watch the road (or trail) ahead for loose rocks, ruts, holes, etc. A crash while on the job would be *no fun!* This means that it can be very hard to see or hear if someone is watching you.

Unless you're a shaved ape, you probably won't be able to carry many tools. Most mountain bikes weigh about 30 lbs., and you probably won't want to carry more than 30-40 lbs. of water and gear.

Consider the type of terrain in your area. If roads and trails follow sandy washes, or if they are frequently covered with deep, slick clay mud, you're better off walking or riding a horse. Loose rocks can be a lot of extra work.

Security

A *very* important consideration is not implicating yourself or your bike in any "wrongdoing." Paint everything on your bike flat black or camouflage. Wrap brake handles and other non-paintable areas in cloth or duct tape. Shiny paint and chrome can reflect headlights and sunlight — maybe in the wrong direction. Be sure that all reflectors are removed (replace them for legitimate night riding).

Make as little noise as possible. Curse quietly if you do an "endo," or get stuck hub-deep in water or mud. Prevent the chain from slapping against the frame. Be sure all tools are wrapped and secured so they don't clink against one another. You'll be going over a lot of bumps. I don't know how to hide tire tracks. Mountain bikes can leave very distinct tracks. You do *not* want to be stopped with a muddy bike whose mud and tires match tracks left near a "boat anchor." The ultimate solution to this would be a stretch rubber covering with a different tread pattern which could be put on over tires, and hidden after each action. Unfortunately, such a thing is not available. Changing tires after an action would be awkward and difficult to do in the field, and dragging a brush behind you wouldn't work on clay soil. Other ideas on this problem would be appreciated.

Finally, a word about night work. This should only be done on moonlit nights or on a road or trail you have been on at night before. Be sure you know where all of the bumps and sand are. A generator-type headlight gives enough light to see by, but the generators run very rough and are noisy on most mountain bikes tires. Also, such a light is quite conspicuous.

With careful planning, mountain bikes can make fast, strike-and-run ecodefense operations possible in situations where the Enemies will be completely prepared. However, *you* can also be caught completely unprepared (and lose your bike!). Good luck and happy riding.

Editor's Note

While we do not, as a rule, approve of the use of wheeled vehicles of any sort on mountain trails, and certainly not in Wilderness Areas, we *do* think that mountain bikes have a great potential for the ecodefender, especially as a rapid and silent means of getting around on all those thousands of miles of Forest Service logging roads. There are certain security precautions one should take, however.

Tire prints *would* constitute serious evidence if a eco-raider were ever apprehended, even long after the fact, as long as that person still possessed those tires. Since getting rid of bike tires after each "hit" would be an expense beyond the means of all but the richest eco-warrior, we suggest that mountain bikes might be used only to ride to the general vicinity of the work site. The bikes then could be hidden and the ecoteurs would go the rest of the way on foot. It's cheaper to replace shoes than tires.

Desert Notes: Changing Our Course

by Gregory McNamee

Lately I have been thinking of rivers I have seen: the Thames, Potomac, Tiber, Mississippi, Truckee, Danube, Lerma, Rhine, Suwanee, and Seine. And I have been thinking of rivers I have not seen, but hope to: the Lena, Blue Nile, Mackenzie, Volga, Amazon, Ganges, and Yangtze — and the Gila, Santa Cruz, Rillito, and San Pedro.

Those of us who live in the Pimeria Alta know the last only by their absence. Their dry beds, spanned by unsteady bridges, mock their intended function, carrying runoff from the heavens only a few days of the year at best, effluent from sewage treatment plants and golf courses with greater regularity. They are rivers in name only, an insult to the theory and practice of flowing streams.

Not many years ago, these courses bracketed and defined our region with perennially flowing water. Steamships followed their way through the bountiful desert. Tucsonans of a few generations past could, in the heat of midsummer, find comfort in the deep pools of the Santa Cruz, just minutes from their doors.

The river: the Santa Cruz was the natural center for a city now lacking any focus, sporting groves of shadetrees, bandstands, swimming holes, green native lawns, a sort of frontier Tuileries, a backcountry Battersea Park. That was years ago, far beyond the memories of all but the oldest Tucsonans. The Santa Cruz, Rillito, San Pedro, and Gila all flowed abundantly then, in the happy times before mining and stockraising altered the face of the land through uncontrolled soil erosion and watershed destruction; before agribusiness declared that arid Arizona was a fine place for growing wetland crops like cotton, oranges, and pecans, helped along by our legislators' eagerness to sign away the future of our irreplaceable aquifers; before the developers, prophets of the short-term good, convinced whole generations of Americans that earthly happiness was to be found for a song in the beautiful Sun belt, and please bring your lawns with you. The "five Cs" officially proclaimed as the basis of Arizona's well-being — cattle, cotton, climate, copper, and citrus — condemned our rivers to extinction.

Now a new river, this one of human artifice, makes its way toward the Pimeria Alta, dropping out of the bellies of giant paving machines: the Central Arizona Project's Tucson-bound canal. Never mind that it hastens the death of the terminally ill Colorado River, exhausted by the endless demands of

The Legend of Tiny Tonka

by Mudslide Slim

The sun was yet to rise and the rooster yet to crow. Tiny poured a second cup of coffee, put the pot near the edge of the wood stove, and contemplated the day being born. He moved to the wilndow and looked out as he had many times before in his life as a second-generation logger and sawmill operator. Light was coming. He drew from his cup as if it were the gene pool which gives rise to men of the woods.

Tiny looked out at his big yellow bulldozer. "Good to have it home for a few days," he thought. He finished his predawn woodsman ritual, as his father had many times before him, and as his brother also performs in the great forests of the northern Rockies. "Damn good feeling to be a logger and up early," he said to himself. "And time to go."

His large three hundred pound frame moving toward the door, Tiny grabbed his lunch-pail and thermos. The words "Tiny Tonka" scratched on the thermos gave testimony to a quiet lunch hour spent atop a large spruce stump with a bent nail as stylus, taking a break from the pressures of modern-day logging. Tiny paused for only a moment to take in the steeped aroma of the fall woods, noted the early light as it played on the yellowing larch and wondered at the beauty and quiet of it all. Then a squirt of ether and the big monster roared to life with the deep rattle befitting a large diesel.

While the diesel's lope warmed and changed to a steady impatience, Tiny scuffed the toe of his boot in the earth's larch needle carpet, placed a healthy pinch of Copenhagen under his lip and raised his eyes to meet the lush avalanche chutes of the Swan range. Above the roar of the bulldozer, Tiny could sense the call of these mountains and the vast stands of timber at their feet. Born and raised on these mountainsides, Tiny knew things about them that are not written in books.

Tiny also knew that a man's just got to do what he's got to do. With the pull of a lever and the push of a pedal, the great rattling machine became an immediate extension of Tiny Tonka as he willed it to turn and crawl up Grizzly Creek toward the US Forest boundary, toward the heart of the Glacier-Bob Marshall Ecosystem. As the machine surged onward, up the old skid road by the creek, Tiny's concentration increased. He knew why this creek was named "Grizzly." Unlike his own name, which was in contrast to his stature, "Grizzly" spoke directly of the great bears which still sought out the seeps and springs of this drainage. They dug for roots here, dined on green clover and grasses, horsetail, young shoots of spring, and drank and wallowed in the same waters Tiny drank and bathed in. Tiny liked that.

Time to pause as he approached the National Forest boundary. He shut the engine off to take in the sounds of the creek and forest. But no, the sounds of a diesel engine still filled the forest air. And it grew louder. Barely visible through the trees, a large green road grader made its way up the Forest Service road Tiny had yet to reach. A green pickup followed it. It was Forest Service machinery piercing the forest calm. They too were headed toward the heart of the ecosystem. Tiny watched the procession as the two drivers remained oblivious to him. Their sounds diminished as they wound out of Grizzly Creek and around the ridge. His thoughts returned to the great bears and this home of theirs.

Tiny had witnessed many a bull-session amongst logging crews, centering around this once far-ranging omnivore. It seemed that this damned grizzly bear, which had once roamed from the Mississippi to the Pacific and from Canada to Mexico, had chosen to hang on here in northwest Montana as a threatened species for the sole purpose of snacking on wimpy hikers and taking valuable timber lands away from starving loggers. Tiny had seen these bull-sessions result in the use of the "shoot, shovel and shut up" technique when grizzlies came near a logging job. Rather than stop logging for a few days or weeks while the bears made use of the area, it became a matter of principle and of manly duty to shoot the bastards, dig a big hole with an ever-handy bulldozer, cover them up and keep the secret to avoid Federal penalties for putting these thankless creatures closer to extinction. After all, we seem to be doing all right without the dinosaur and isn't it the logger who's the real endangered species?

These thoughts were beginning to take the edge off a good day so Tiny spat out some of his chew, got his big metal feet going clackety-clackety and approached the FS road and boundary. A quick look both ways, not that he was overly concerned that some tourist was going to dent his bulldozer with their Datsun, and Tiny was up on the main FS road. Up the main road in the direction the Forest Service had gone he pivoted the huge machine and headed up the FS spur road that ran up Grizzly Creek. Although the canyon was too narrow to see far ahead, Tiny sensed the upper reaches of the creek, the avalanche chutes and the still standing trees seen earlier that morning. He moved deeper into the heart of the Swan mountains.

Tiny thought about how this road was built during his lifetime to haul logs off the mountainsides by Grizzly Creek. But it hadn't been used for that purpose in nearly twenty five years even though there was still some standing timber where Tiny was headed. He thought it a shame to see the road there. Tiny followed the road which had witnessed thousands of cars, pickups, four-wheel-drives and adrenaline crazed motorcycle riders since the last legitimate log truck rolled out on its way to the mill. Tiny felt proud to be able to restore legitimate honor to Grizzly Creek once again.

Tiny passed moss covered seeps and springs; and thickets where he thought he would hang out if he were a bear. He thought this whole drainage would be A-OK by him if he were a bear . . . excepting the four-wheel-drives and motorcycles which continually screamed across his dinner table.

Across the stream from him, the large timber paraded by. With the intuitive sense gleaned from his years of logging, he surveyed the trees; assessing which way they leaned and would fall, how sound they looked, how many logs tall. A regular theater show played in Tiny's head as the trees were felled and skid trails layed. Logs were dragged down the hillside as limbs snapped and engines roared. "Yep, mighty nice timber," he thought.

Now Tiny turned his attention to the other side of the road to an area still recovering from clearcutting. Old stumps hung near the bank of the road cut. Abandoned tree trunks and boulders too. Here and there, amongst the brush, a young tree stood, seemingly in no hurry to grow up. Perhaps it held the memory of its parents passing and felt no urge.

Tiny passed beyond the sawtimber and neared the end of the road. Stumps, boulders and other skeletal remains surrounded him. Tiny was a logger but he had a mind for theater, too. These stumps and boulders were cast a long time ago and he had run the theater show through his mind enough times to come up with a part for each one of them.

He was to the end of the road now and only a motorcycle trail ran on up the mountain side to intersect the main FS road on its way across the mountain. Tiny figured the FS guys he'd seen earlier were up there somewhere. He looked up toward the avalanche chute above. He'd surveyed the whole road now, spat out more of the brown juices of contemplation, and turned his bulldozer around to face back toward the stand of sawtimber. Tiny was ready for action.

Yes, Tiny had a mind for theater. He'd also spent time thinking about what intellectual folks call "appropriate uses of technology" and he figured he was prepared to pull the two fields together. "Yes, a man's got to do what he's got to do." Tiny planted his big steel feet on the road and moved down the mountain. With a steady hand he lowered the blade of the dozer into the road bed. The diesel smoke thickened as the road bed curled up, crumbled and rose into a huge pile. Tiny grabbed reverse and grinned. Time to call in his cast. A huge stump waited to be rolled out of the road. Glad to play its part on the pile of dirt now blocking Grizzly Creek Road. More road bed turned rubble, up on the pile and on to the next.

As Tiny started his second giant kelly-hump he thought of all the times he'd asked, encouraged and demanded that the Forest Service close Grizzly Creek Road to public travel. It had gone on for years. "This one's for the District Ranger," he thought. "Ah, a huge boulder to be 'king of the hill.'" Marvelous casting. "This one's so the bears can eat dinner in peace." Topped with a tree trunk. Tiny knew that the FS knew this road should be closed. "What are they, chicken-shit?" Small mountains strung out behind Tiny's bulldozer as he worked his way down the mountain. "This one's for the mama elk trying to calve baby elk in the spring up on that ridge when the motorcycles are in here like shit flies!" A big dip next to a big hump . . . good combination. Tiny replayed his conversations with FS officials and thought, "This is literally making mountains out of mole hills!"

"Hell no," he thought, "these aren't even mole hills to begin with. This is a big problem and it's all over the damn forests!" Tiny glanced back at his handiwork. He was across from the sawtimber stand now and the kelly-humps behind him looked like well placed sutures in a twenty-five year old wound. Doctor Tonka and his twenty ton sewing needle moved on. The roadbed continued to give way and the little mountains grew up all in a row like assorted ice cream sundaes, each topped with a different member of Tiny's cast. The FS had refused to grasp that Tiny didn't want all those motorcycles and four-wheel-drives mucking up his drinking water. To Tiny a loaded log truck was perhaps legitimate, but given the rate the FS was clearcutting the last of the area, even that was in question!

Tiny was nearing the main FS road again. By the time he was ready to build his last and best monument, he had things well thought through and his play had been given its debut. It all boiled down to no motorcycles and pickups mucking it up, stirring up the water, running the wildlife out and tearing up the road so it can run mud into the creek. "From now on it's nothing but pure, unadulterated grizzly bear perfume in my drinking and bathing water!"

Tiny knew this last kelly-hump at the main road had to be good to stop motorcycles since they go right over dirt piles. He chose a spot where the creek passed under the road. First a huge stump wad in the road, then a boulder next to it. Now the biggest hump yet and two trees pushed over to criss-cross on top. All framed by impassable creek on either side. A masterpiece! Feeling better, Tiny clackety-clacketed down the main road, pivoted off the road and down alongside Grizzly Creek, disappearing in the trees beyond a sign that read "Private — No Trespassing."

The FS road grader was not far behind. They had spent the day improving motorized access into the fragile ecosystem which offers perhaps our best chance of maintaining a viable grizzly population in the lower forty-eight states. They were on their way home when they glanced up Grizzly Creek Road and saw a strange monument of some sort. On closer inspection it turned out to be Tiny's Super Duper Sundae topped with Crossed Trees, with Stumps and Boulders on the side.

Stupefied, the two recalled the ways of the American Indian as they had seen on westerns as kids and began to track down the maker of these outlandish creations. They didn't get far when it became apparent the tracks went beyond a "No Trespassing" sign. "Shall we?"

"I don't know. That land belongs to Tiny Tonka and it's posted."

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Tiny pulled off his logging boots after a hard day on the dozer. He picked up the phone, dialed, and waited. Someone answered: "US Forest Service, may I help you?"

"Yes, this is Tiny Tonka. I'd like to talk to the District Ranger, please."

"I'm sorry, he's not available, may I take a message?"

"Yes. Would you tell him I called to let him know he should cross Grizzly Creek Road off his map?"

Mudslide Slim writes: This is a true story. It took place in 1985 in the Swan Range of the Rocky Mountains in northwest Montana. The names were changed to protect the honorable.

SW RIVERS (Cont)

Los Angeles and the Imperial Valley, that it has turned that river's once-beautiful Sonoran delta into a silty swamp, that it brings with it the destruction of the desert: the new river will usher another million inhabitants into the already overcrowed Tucson valley, a dream come true for the politicians and developers who insist that growth is good for us.

It won't be much of a river. The cement-lined canal, an even uglier version of the Los Angeles River, will not spawn new picnic grounds and bandstands, will not give root to groves of mesquite, cottonwoods, and willows. The most likely decor for our prefab river will be one "No Swimming" sign after another, if the scenic vistas around Phoenix's Baseline Road are any indication.

No, it won't be much of a river. It will not give the city a commons. It won't make us prosperous, and it won't make us happy.

To bring back the old rivers is not an impossibility; to say that time cannot be reversed is useless dogma. But to regain the Santa Cruz, Gila, Rillito, and San Pedro will require an absolute change in the politics and economics of the state, away from ceaseless rapacity and on to a more sustainable ethic. And a change of this sort, given the shape of things today, is far from likely.

A free-flowing river in the heart of Tucson, perennial, available to everyone. The very thought is gladdening. Just think of the reality.

Gregory McNamee is an ecologist and writer living in Tucson, whose works include the highly-acclaimed ***Resist Much, Obey Little.***

NOTES FROM ULTIMA THULE

by Christoph Manes

Living in Iceland requires you to muse about the interplay of humans and nature. As winter solstice approaches, the sun barely reaches the tops of the peaked houses of Reykjavik before the Midgard Serpent drags it back down into its North Atlantic lair: three hours of gloomy, frozen half-light. Winds howl, a thrush falls to the ground, a fishing boat founders. People have to hold on tight until spring, though some can't take it and go to Spain or Florida. Some commit suicide. And so you muse about the abundant power of life, not because life is abundant here, but because it is so tenacious. It is pure and intense, like youth.

Iceland is young — 17 million years old — an infant by geological standards, which accounts for the volcanic tantrums it is always throwing. The last one was a decade ago and all but buried a town on the Westman Islands. But Iceland also has the tolerance of youth, which has made it a sanctuary at the end of the world for various outcasts: the arctic fox; arctic tern; Atlantic salmon, which was mostly exterminated in Europe; and freedom-loving Vikings, who were mostly exterminated by King Harald Blood-Axe and his glorious plans for geopolitical unity. These last refugees displaced a few Celtic monks, who probably sailed on to frozen penance in Greenland, so that the history of Iceland as a nation begins with the Vikings about 1100 years ago. But brief as the history of humanity has been on this little island, it played out — and is playing out — both the best and the worst relationships of Indo-European culture with Earth.

Deforestation, overgrazing, erosion — it's a familiar story, and we might expect the impetus of history to have made Iceland into another New Jersey or *Ruhrgebiet*. But it didn't. After the initial damage caused by their agriculture and animal husbandry, the Icelanders learned to accomodate themselves to the imperatives of the land. It might not have been wisdom, but rather isolation or stubbornness, but that's often the case where people live within the bounds of the natural order. The fact is Icelanders developed the most environmentally harmonious culture in Europe. They built their houses out of turf. They abandoned the cultivation of grain and took up fishing as the Little Ice-Age settled in. They raised horses and sheep in open pastures but did not overgraze them. And perhaps not coincidentally, the Icelanders produced the most vigorous, literate culture of the Middle Ages. While the rest of Europe was cringing in monasteries wondering how many angels could dance on the head of a pin, Icelanders were living as independent farmers without feudal overlords, were sailing to Greenland and America, were creating a literature about the lives of people in this world, not the next. The transcendental infection that caused the Old World to see everything *sub specie aeternitatis* barely made the Icelanders sneeze.

In its essential relationship to the environment, Icelandic culture didn't change for 800 years. Most importantly, it never urbanized. This prevented the concentration of social power that made possible the Industrial Revolution and its massive intrusion on the cycles of life. It also produced a unique society that was neither tribal nor political, but was based on individual landholders living independent of each other without an executive authority. To my mind it comes closest to the kind of paradigm our culture needs to bring itself back within the bounds of natural law. Europe, Asia, America, and now the Southern Hemisphere have seen species after species disappear, while no creatures have become extinct here (except, of course, the Celtic monks). Eiderducks still nest in the tens of thousands and the arctic fox still creeps among the sedges hoping to catch one.

To the extent that Icelanders did not or could not alter their environment, they were considered a miserable lot. English travelogues of the 17th and 18th centuries mention how Icelanders lived in "holes in the ground like dreadful beasts." And by the standards of those who have a dislike of dreadful beasts, Icelanders probably were utterly impoverished.

For this reason Icelanders of this century have abandoned their pastoral past. Most of the population now lives in town, though except for Reykjavik all the towns are relatively small. The shift to an export economy has brought affluence, but it has also forced wetlands into agricultural production, to the dismay of millions of migratory birds. The government has dammed rivers to get cheap electricity, and plans to dam more — even the beautiful Gullfoss (Golden Waterfall) was the target of the cement mixers, though that fate has been forestalled. A huge project is now underway to tap the superheated steam in the Laugervatn region and pipe it to Reykjavik, which has nearly run out of its own "unlimited" geothermal resources.

Iceland has compressed into fifty years the scramble for higher living standards that has developed in industrialized society over the past two hundred. The intensity of this change raises grievous questions. Iceland is a robust young nation without much crime or violence. People are affluent and aggressive. Arts and business are thriving. If you tell an Icelander that he would be better off living in a turf hut with a sheep, he'd probably reply with one of their extraordinary swear words. Environmental considerations are usually thought to be impediments to a decent life. There is a government agency called the *Landbunatharrathuneyti* and the semi-public *Naturuverndarrad*, but they are as entangled in politics as our Fish and Wildlife Service. There are government reforestation programs, but these are economic ploys, designed to create a timber industry, not restore a lost habitat.

Iceland is a northern sphinx that asks the question: how far can humans look after their own needs and desires before they consider the effect on nature. The path Iceland has chosen is leading to disaster. History has shown that the island has a carrying capacity of about 50,000 people. The new export economy has created a population of 200,000. You don't have to have a morbid imagination to see what the results of this will be if the present economic structure of the industrialized nations is disrupted. Personally, I wish 150,000 Icelanders would immigrate to America: we could use the descendants of Vikings — who always loved freedom above everything else, even our tedious morality — to fight the numerous King Haralds in our country.

I know a real commitment to freedom has to include a responsibility to Earth, because real freedom only exists in wilderness. But I don't know how this knowledge can be translated into reality, given the tendency of Icelanders all over the world, of every tribe and tongue, to swear at the mysterious wisdom of Earth. It's probably best to do as the inhabitants of Reykjavik do: hold tight and wait for spring.

Christoph Manes is studying in Iceland this year, where he continues to write for our journal.

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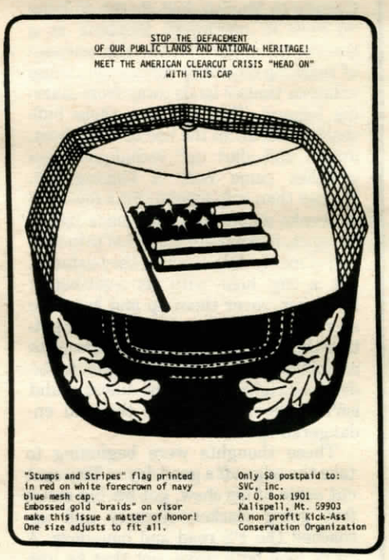
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For those who walk, sit & stand against the terror in our sky.

We live as the birds would live
If birds would teach each other fear.
If all the birds were just our chickens
And our planet only barnyard overseen by hawk.
By rule of fear.
Rule of one kind of bird.
The bird that holds the gun.
Holds the money.
Sells fried chicken.

We live on the ground & read the papers.
They live in our air.
As if people were birds who had
Sold off their children's wings.
It's so easy to frighten children.
Tell them somebody wants to blow up the school.
That nobody knows when the teacher
Will strike the burning child.
What the children will do to get even.
Sell feathers. Buy bombs.

We live as if birds were people in prison & we had
Given them their names & numbers &
Taught them to read. Reformed every winged thought.
We know that what we are doing will kill them.
We tell them we have to pay our bills.
That we vote. Pay taxes. Can do nothing.
We know it is killing us.
We embrace our extinction. We know
When it's over the birds will forgive us.

We live as if birds could live if there were
No such things as song.
As if all the song had finally become
One song & when it was taught to everyone &
Then forgotten because everyone thought
Someone else must know it somebody noticed
There was no such thing as birds.
People with guns try to take the guns
Away from people with guns.
Sell them to people with money.
Sing prosperity. Sing peace.

We live as if we were the birds who live on the moon.
Believing we are seeing half-way round the earth.
That with a ticket we could fly there.
But we do not leave the moon.
We watch the real birds through glasses &
Sometimes take long steps. Almost fly.
There are no missiles on the moon.
They are aimed at the air between us & earth.
It would be our longest flight.
We would have to land somewhere.
Buy shoes. Get to know the birds again.

We live as if on earth. Walk as if in its air.
Know that the sky is not ours.
That it watches our gardens, our roads, our lives.
That we have to live somewhere on earth.
A place under its own sky. On its own ground.
Where no symbols wave. No real stars that near.
No images on the air. On earth
It is only the heart that soars.
When we are the birds who live here
We will take back the sky.

Jerry Martien
Arcata

Last year I went to Yellowstone Park
Named so because it's stones are yellow and dark.
Castle Geyser shoots water high up in the sky
Every day at 12 o'clock high.
If you see smoke
It's no joke!
Marmots live under the deck
Where woodpeckers come and peck.
The Firehole River was full of steam
Which also produced a bubbly cream

Pierre Bourque
Colorado Springs

Hit Me With Your Best Shot . . .

WINTERSONNET II

Winter bottoms out at 25 below.
Icy dawn, waiting for the stove to start.
Frostfeather fantasy on a singlepane window.
Hot morning coffee to jumpstart the heart.

Snow so cold it squeaks in protest.
Cars don't start, skis won't run.
Refugees from a book about the West,
playing pioneer under a frozen sun.

Dry aspen flares up, our stove's red enamel
turns deep maroon & cold air breathable
again. From here on, this winter, this year

climbs steadily uphill toward summer.
Survived again, but really -- love's
what keep us warm, not stoves, hats, gloves.

Lito Tejada-Flores
from *The Telluride Sonnets*
(Western Eye Press, 1985)

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PRELUDE

Stop looking at the sea for your answer.
The sea doesn't know or forget. Those far
distant puffs dancing out of the imagination
are all that's left of what we thought we knew.
That's why the loon's cry brings a shudder.
Stop looking at the water. The sea never answers.
Let winter, for a moment, take the mind.
Night and mind are full of sound. You walk
along with your hands thrust deep in your pockets,
you walk through the deep trough of winter
and the mind teeters, teeters at the abyss
of the mind. And falls, memory clutching
at everything that rushes past falling
upward, climbing toward the light growing
ever smaller, ever fainter from above.

I saw you fall. I could not reach your hand.
Because I was falling, falling beside you,
falling in love, falling out of Paradise
with my mouth full of apple and my heart
racing toward earth like a rock dropped
from an eagle's talons. I could not help.
Now it is winter. You stand looking out
at the sea, and the sea birds make you weep.
You can see where the kelp wavers like the hair
of a drowned girl. The water glints and breaks
into shards of light. Offshore, the big rigs
are sucking the world's bones. But you can't bear
to see. The birds cry, the light sails away,
and the past passes us by. Walk by the sea,
yes. But silent. Because there is nothing to say.

Sam Hamill
Port Townsend

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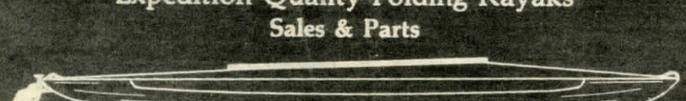

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contact: Roger Rom's ALASKA WILDERNESS, INC., PO Box 81267, Fairbanks, AK 99708; 907-455-6060

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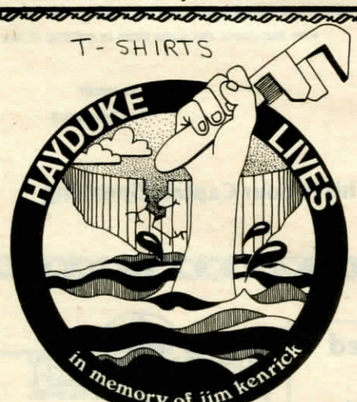

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Yes, back issues of *Earth First!* are available for $2 apiece (to cover our postage and handling expenses). Some of the early issues are already out of print and numbers are running low on others, so order those you wish now.

YULE Dec. 21, 1981 (Vol. II, No. II) First Earth First! Road Show; Oil Leasing in Wilderness Areas; EF! Preserve System; Many early photos of Earth First!.

BRIGID Feb. 2, 1982 (Vol. II, No. III) Earth First! by Dave Foreman (reprinted from *The Progressive*); letters from *Progressive* readers; Oil Leasing in Wilderness Areas.

EOSTAR March 20, 1982 (Vol. II, No. IV) Mardie Murie Interview; Canyonlands Nuke Dump; EF! meeting in Eugene.

BELTANE May 1, 1982 (Vol. II, No. V) Little Granite Creek Drilling Controversy; GO Road; John Crowell; Western Civilization by Chim Blea; Monkeywrenching Seismo Crews; Jail: A Primer.

LITHA June 21, 1982 (Vol. II, No. VI) Little Granite Creek; Moab Roads a BLM WSA; Chim Blea on Babies; Dinkey Creek & McKinley Sequoias; What To Do as an EF!er; Caribou in Maine.

LUGHNASADH Aug. 1, 1982 (Vol. II, No. VII) Rendezvous at Little Granite Creek; Dustrud Resigns as *EF!* Editor; Gary Snyder on Violence; Canyonlands Nuke Dump; Little Granite Survey Stakes Pulled.

MABON Sept. 21, 1982 (Vol. II, No. VIII) ***Out Of Print***

SAMHAIN Nov. 1, 1982 (Vol. III, No. I) BLM Rotten in Utah by Clive Kincaid; Ed Abbey on Books & Gurus; Bob Marshall's 1927 Inventory of Big Wilderness; Dear Ned Ludd/Closing Roads; Foreman Runs for Sierra Club Board; Mama Rue on Samhain; Bill Devall on Nuclear War; Foreman on Endangered Species & Wilderness; How To Do An EF! Wilderness Proposal.

YULE/BRIGID Dec. 21, 1982 (Vol. III, No. II) Salt Creek Blockade; Nightcap Blockade in Australia; Bisti Mass Trespass; Howie Wolke on *Real* Wilderness; Ned Ludd/Closing Roads; Foreman on Primeval Wilderness Management; Bill Devall on Earth Bonding; Foreman on Books; Ed Abbey on Pigs; Mama Rue on Yule; Wilderness & the Bible; Juniper Chaining in Utah; Bisti.

EOSTAR March 21, 1983 (Vol. III, No. III) Franklin River Blockade in Australia; Salt Creek Blockade; GO Road and Bald Mt Road; Chim Blea on Domestication; Howie Wolke on RARE III; Bisti Circus; Deciduous Forest Ecosystem Preserve; Nightcap Blockade Photos (Australia); EF! White Cloud Wilderness Proposal(Idaho); Ned Ludd/Cutting Torch; Howie Wolke on the Wilderness Act; Road Show Diary; EF! in Sonora; Spurs Jackson on Books; Ed Abbey on The Big Woods; Navajo Sam; Nagasaki Johnson on Tactics; Mama Rue on Eostar; Creative Littering.

BELTANE May 1, 1983 (Vol. III, No. IV) Bald Mt Blockade; GO Road; Howie Wolke on Moderation; EF! Wyoming Wilderness Proposal; Canyonlands Nuke Dump; Maze Tar Sands; EF! Smashes Earth Last!; Ned Ludd/Helicopters; California Desert Sellout by BLM; Otter G'Zell on Whales; Mama Rue on Beltane; *Reenchantment of the World* Review; John Seed on Australia Rainforest Direct Action; Bigfoot Interview.

LITHA June 21, 1983 (Vol. III, No. V) Wilderness War in Oregon; Bald Mt Blockaders' Personal Accounts; Mama Rue on Summer Solstice; EF! Wilderness Preserve System and Map; Head of Joaquin on Utah; EF! Glen Canyon Demonstration; Franklin River Victory in Australia; Ned Ludd/ Radios; GO Road Stopped; Reform of the Forest Service; Ed Abbey on Conscience of the Conqueror.

LUGHNASADH Aug. 1, 1983 (Vol. III, No. VI) Bald Mt Road Stopped!; Round River Rendezvous; *Marcy Willow: You; Chim Blea on Population Control*; Photos of EF! Glen Canyon Demo; The Endangered Rainforest by John Seed; Watt Enters Coyote (A Greek Tragedy) by Marc Brown; John Seed on Anthropocentrism; EF! and Dignity; Mama Rue on Lughnasadh.

MABON Sept. 21, 1983 (Vol. III, No. VII) ***OUT OF PRINT***

SAMHAIN Nov. 1, 1983 (Vol. IV, No. I) Sinkyone Redwood Blockade; EF! National Forest Campaign; Rainforest Burgers by Roselle; Bald Mt in Retrospect; EF!: The First 3 Years (with many photos); Howie Wolke on the Forest Service; *Conservation Biology* review; The Battle of Salt Creek (an epic poem) by Marcy Willow; Watt's Last EIS.

YULE Dec. 22, 1983 (Vol. IV, No. II) Forest Service Attacks Wilds, National RARE II Suit, DARN Report, Wolke on the Forest Service; EF! Utah Wilderness Proposal; EF! Ishi Wilderness Proposal (California); How To Do An EF! Wilderness Proposal; Ed Abbey in Utah; EF! Black Rock Desert Wilderness Proposal(Nevada); Sinkyone Struggle; Greenpeace in Siberia; *An Ecological & Evolutionary Ethic* Review; Coors "Beer;" Chim Blea on the Humanpox; Ned Ludd/Vehicle Modifications.

BRIGID Feb. 2, 1984 (Vol. IV, No. III) Oregon RARE II Suit; EF! Idaho Wilderness Proposal; Tuolumne; Forest Service Arrogance; Ned Ludd/ Smoke Bombs; Head of Joaquin on Trapping; Coors in Shenandoah.

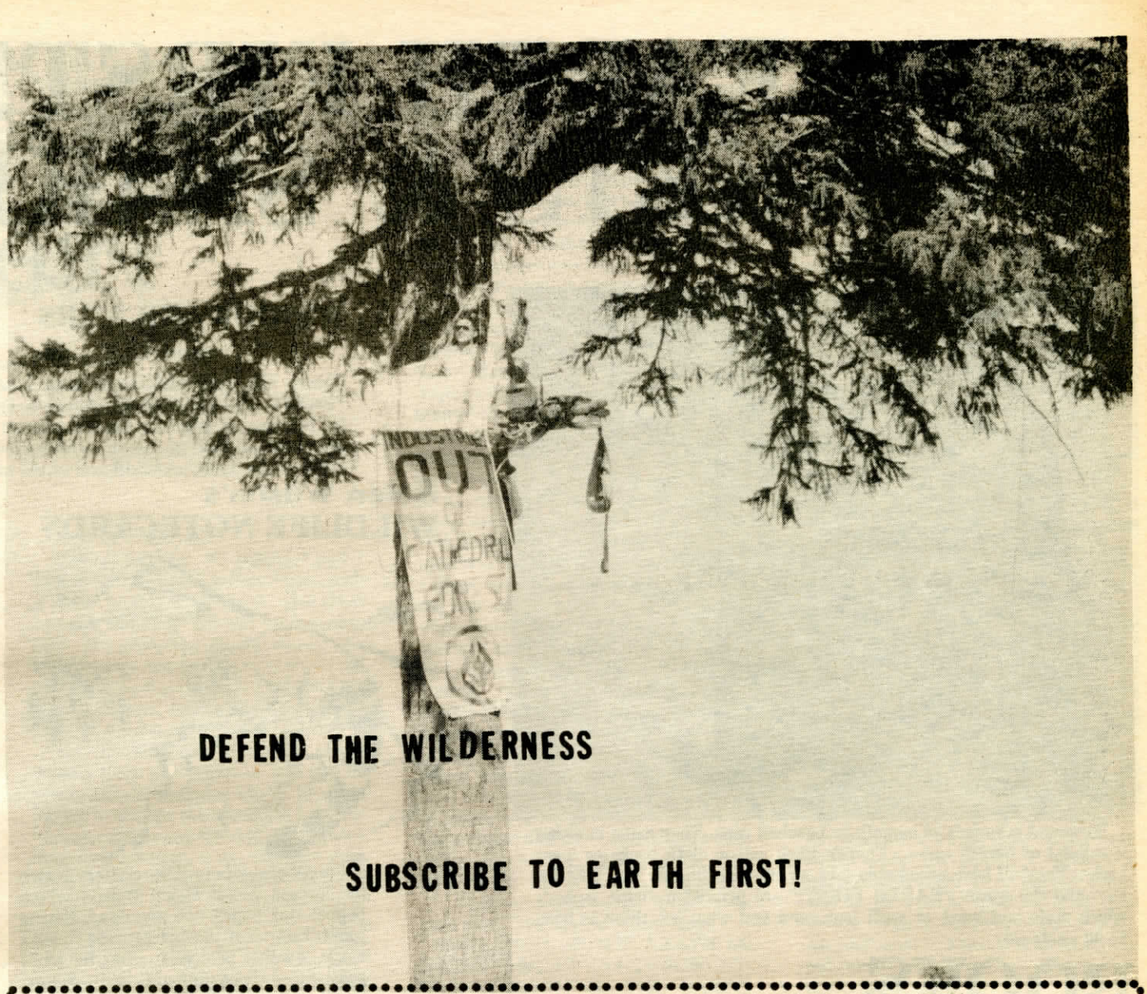
EOSTAR March 20, 1984 (Vol. IV, No. IV) Burger King Protest; Shipwrecked Environmentalism; Solomon Island Rainforest Action; Bald Mt Road Crumbles; Southern Utah Wilderness; Dave Brower/Muir's Disciple by Bill Devall; Ned Ludd/ Tree Spiking & No Evidence; Mama Rue on Enlightenment; 1984 Road Show; Photos of Daintree Buried Protestors.

BELTANE May 1, 1984 (Vol. IV, No. V) Cabinet Mts Grizzlies & Mining; Forest Service Appeals Form; Wolke on the Role of EF!; EF! Owyhee Wilderness Proposal(Idaho, Oregon & Nevada); Angel Dusting Grizzlies; Middle Santiam; Colorado Recreation Dollars; EF! Arizona Wilderness Proposal; Arctic Wildlife Refuge Violated; Bolt Weevils; Devall on the Australian Environmental Movement; Ned Ludd/Survey Stakes & Disabling Vehicles; Deep Ecology & Reproduction; Save the Tuolumne Rally.

LITHA June 20, 1984 (Vol. IV, No. VI) Middle Santiam Blockade; Chim Blea on the Big Outside; Cabinet Mts & Grizzly; Coors in Shenandoah; Saguaro National Monument Mine; Murder on Key Largo; Burger King Demonstrations; Daintree Rainforest; Ned Ludd/Rising & Falling Birds; EF! Protests Canyonlands Nuke Dump; *Sterile Forest* Review; Basic Principles of Deep Ecology; Sinkyone Continues.

LUGHNASADH Aug. 1, 1984 (Vol. IV, No. VII) Middle Santiam Blockade; EF! Occupies Montana Senator's Office; North American Bioregional Congress; Round River Rendezvous; Montana on Civil Disobedience; Petroleum Conflicts with Wilderness Analyzed; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Forest Service Part 1 by Bobcat; Sacred Cows; Foreman on Professionalism; Hunting Wild Life; Devall and Sessions on the Books of Deep Ecology.

SAMHAIN Nov. 1, 1984 (Vol. V, No. I) EF! Occupies Regional Forester's Office (Oregon); Hardesty Avengers Spike Trees; Old Growth Rally; "What Do You Expect To Accomplish?"; Cop Raid on Bald Mt; Your Taxes Destroy Rainforest; Down (With) The Amazon; Green Politics; Elfbusters; Roxby Downs in Australia; Wilderness — the Global Connection; Ned Ludd/Water & Machines; Forest Service Appeal Form; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Forest Service Part 2 by Bobcat; Direct Action by Devall & Sessions; Gary Snyder: Song of the Taste; Beyond Sacred Cows; Stiles in Defense of Dogs.



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YULE Dec. 21, 1984 (Vol. V, No. II) Texas Wilderness Logged; 30,000 Miles of Road in RARE II Areas; Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor; Alaska: Kadashan, Denali, & Johnny Sagebrush; Middle Santiam Trials; Japan Grizzly; German Nuke Dump; Chipko; Solomon Islands Rainforest; Daintree Rainforest Buried Protest; Environmental Professionalism Discussion; 1984: Wilderness Boom or Bust?; A National Range Service; Non-Game; Devall on Whither Environmentalism?; Cecelia Ostrow on Deep Ecology; Hardesty Mt Tree Spiking; Ed Abbey on *Ecodefense*.

BRIGID Feb. 2, 1985 (Vol. V, No. III) Meares Island; Military Land Grab in West (Supersonic Overflights); Mission Symposium; FS Employment Tyranny; National Park Mining; Florida Panther; Shooting Wolves from Air; Cathedral Forest Petition; North Kalmiopsis; Criticizing the Environmental Movement; End of the Yellowstone Grizzly?; In Defense of Western Civilization; Stop Planting Trout; Ned Ludd/Bigfoot.

EOSTAR March 20, 1985 (Vol. V, No. IV) Rocky Mountain Gas Drilling; EF! Gives DOE Nuke Waste; Montana Wilderness Demos; Yellowstone Grizzly Management; Texas Demo; Rainforest Report; Swedish River; Wayne NF; Southern Utah; King Range; Arctic NWR Desecrated; Joseph Canyon; John Day Mining; Great Exchange; Acid Rain; In Defense of Humor; Wolke on Hunting; Nagasaki on Symbols & Lifestyles; Biocentrism of Western Civilization; Ned Ludd/Advanced Billboarding.

BELTANE May 1, 1985 (Vol. V, No. V) Yellowstone's Watergate, Snowmobiles in Yellowstone, Alabama Wilderness, Denali Mine, Grand Canyon Mine, Middle Santiam, Welfare Ranchers, Great Exchange, Welcome to Earth First!, Critters Protest Bighorn NF Plan, RNR Management, Beaverhead NF, Pine Beetles, African Parks Poisoned, Real Environmental Professionalism, Dark Side of Wilderness, Review of *Fragmented Forest*.

LITHA June 21, 1985, (Vol. V, No. VI) Road Frenzy, Tree Climbing Hero, Old Growth Actions in Oregon, EF! Guide to NF Planning, Aircraft in Grand Canyon, Mt. Graham Observatory, Jarbidge Elk, Hells Canyon, Grand Canyon Mine, Rainforest Insert & Ten Questions, King Range, Mike Frome on Fat Cat Conservationists, Review of *Meeting the Expectations of the Land*, Review of *In the Rainforest*, Strategic Monkeywrenching, Advanced Tree Spiking, Tyrone (WI) Nuke.

LUGHNASADH August 1, 1985 (Vol. V, No. VII) Battle for Millenium Grove, 3 Bears in Yellowstone, Oregon Overview, Montana (Hall Creek Well, RARE II bill, Swan Range Motocross), Yellowstone Bison, Mike Frome on Yellowstone, Washington Rendezvous, Ozark NF, Stikine River Dams, Mogollon Rim Logging, Salmon River, Mt. Rainier Shit, '85 RRR, Dreaming Big Wilderness, Jeff Sirmon, Tree Spiking & Moral Maturity, Deep Ecology & Life Style, Blade Ruiner: Tree Pining, Wolke Busted, Fire Stops Logging, Hands-On Forest Planning, Valve Lapping Compound, Lone Wolf on Animal Music, Reviews: *Emerald Forest, Green Politics, Chuang Tzu, Internatl Envir. Policy.*

MABON September 22, 1985 (Vol. V, No. VIII) Arizona EF! (Overview, Mt. Graham, Grand Canyon Mines & Helicopters, Cliff Damn, Coconino Roads), Texas Wilderness Logging, Militarization of the West, Nevada Wilderness, France Sinks Rainbow Warrior, Notes from a Maturing Tree-Hugger, Utah BLM Wilderness, Gila Wilderness, Stikine River, Florida Wilderness Recovery, Eastern Forest Preserves, Natives & Natural Peoples, Ecological Decay/ Political Violence, Blade Ruiner: Ceramic Spikes, Lone Wolf on Country Music, Reviews: *Who Speaks for Wolf, Seeing Green, Parable of the Tribes, Natural Alien.*

SAMHAIN November 1, 1985 (Vol. VI, No. I) Battle for The Bear, Mt. Graham Scopes, Clockwork Grizzly, Ski Yellowstone, Grant Village, Montana EF! Climbs Marais Pass Monument, Hells Canyon Logging, Austalian Woodchipping, Colorado Water Diversions, Environment & Peace, Stein Valley (BC) Logging, Louisiana-Pacific Strike, Camel Cigs Against Rainforest, Carole King on Idaho Wilderness, Rainforest Insert, Mann Creek (ID), Wild Horses, Second Thoughts on Fire, Blade Ruiner: Ceramic Spikes II, A Cop on Security, Lone Wolf Circles on Poetry, Recommended Periodicals, Reviews: *Cry Wolf, Meares Island, Earth Wisdom.*

YULE December 21, 1985 (Vol. VI, No. II) Highjacking of FOE, Colorado EF!, Texas EF!, EF! in Southern California, Bay Area EF!, Maine (Big A Damn, Straight Bay Damn), Sinkyone, Congress on Griz, Pinnacles Pigs, SS Watt, Japan, British Columbia Wilderness Logging, Thinking Like a Rainforest, Big Mountain Relocation, Australia Update, International Rainforest Conference, Blade Ruiner: Quartz Tree Spikes, Trapping, Wolves & Moose in Alaska, Bioregional Approach to Wilderness, Montana Sellout, Spotted Owls, Lone Wolf Circles on Indian Music, Reviews: *Turning Point, Nuclear Battlefields, Declaration of a Heretic, Death of Nature, American Hunting Myth, Parable of the Tribes* reply.

BRIGID February 2, 1986 (Vol. VI, No. III) Cutting the Tongass, Dian Fossey, CO EF!, '86 RRR, Gallatin NF, Oregon Update, Colo. Aspen, Calif. Condor, Desert Eagles, Hall Creek Protest, Bruneau Snail, Bleeding Utah, EF! Acid Rain, Texas Boggy Creek, Designer Genes, Seed in India, South Moresby, World Rainforest Report #5, Foreman on Cowboys, Stoddard on Death, Feb. Pagan Festivals, Wuerthner on Forest Fire, Technology & Mountain Thinking, Spiking Refinements, Lone Wolf Circles on Gary Snyder, Stephanie Mills: RRR Thoughts, Reviews: Books on Mountain Lions and Grizzlies.

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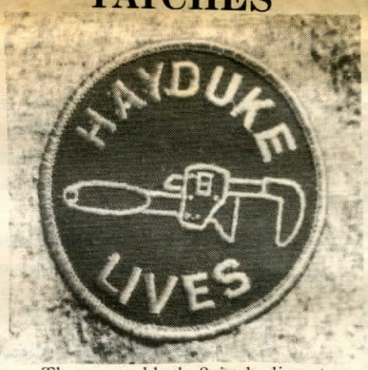

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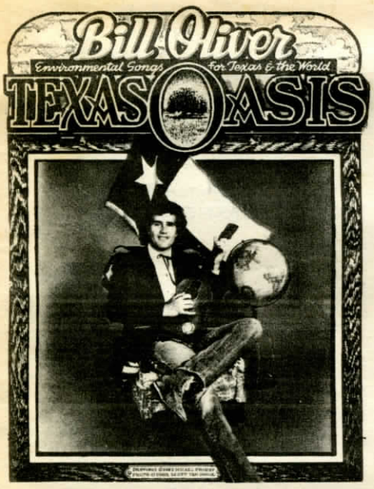

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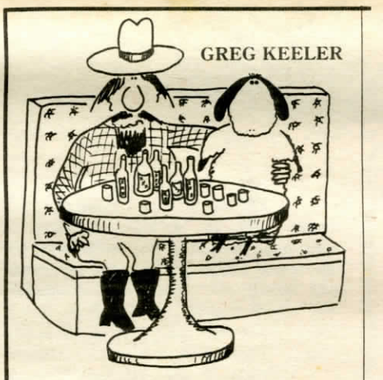

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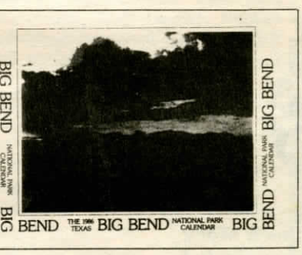

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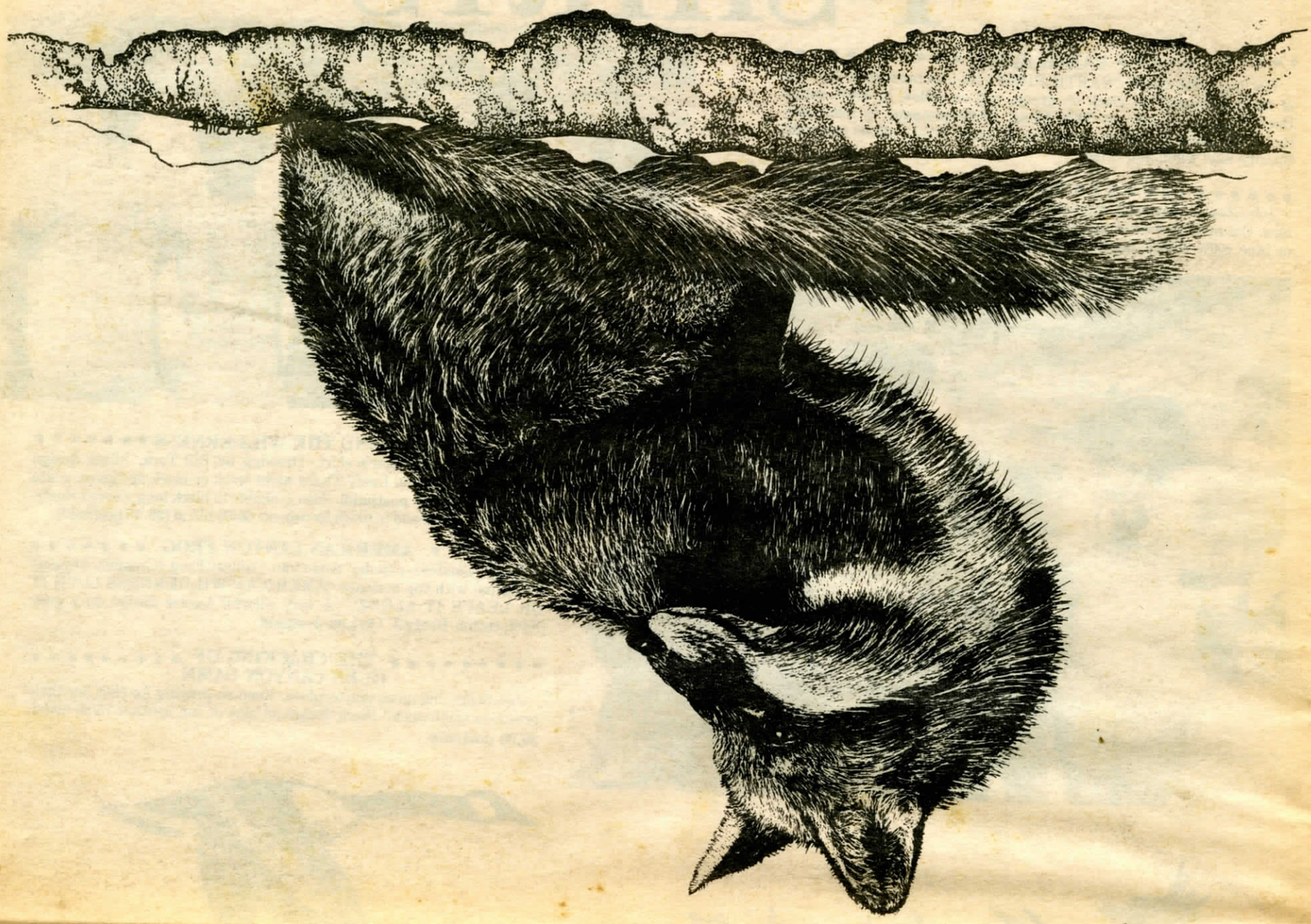

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